REPORTS

OF THE

Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor,

TREASURER, ASSESSORS

AND

School Committee

OF THE

Town of Wilbraham,

Year Ending March 15, 1887.

PALMER, MASS.:
C. B. FISK & COMPANY, PRINTERS.
1887.

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LIST OF JURORS,

As Revised by the Selectmen.

A. JACKSON BLANCHARD,
ERASMUS B. GATES,
BENJAMIN F. GREEN,
HENRY M. BLISS,
ALBERT A. PHELPS,
JOHN SPEIGHT,
ANSON SOULE,
ANSON C. BREWER,
MYRON BREWER,
GEORGE H. HASTINGS,
CHAUNCEY E. PECK,
JESSIE L. RICE,
ELIAS S. KEYES,
WILLIAM A. MOWRY,
A. DELOS SEAVER,
PHINEAS KNOWLTON,
HENRY CLARK.

Articles in Town Warrant.

ARTICLE 1.—To choose a Moderator to preside in said meeting.

ART. 2.—To hear and act on the reports of the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor, Treasurer, School Committee and other town officers.

ART. 3.—To fix the compensation of the Collector of Taxes for the ensuing year.

ART. 4.—To determine the manner of repairing the highways and bridges for the ensuing year.

ART. 5.—To determine the number and manner of electing Highway Surveyors for the year ensuing.

ART. 6.—To see if the town will fix the compensation for labor on the highways; also to see how the town will apportion the appropriation for highways among the Highway Surveyors.

ART. 7.—To choose a Town Clerk, Treasurer, three Selectmen who shall be Overseers of the Poor, three Assessors, five Constables, four Fence Viewers, all on one ballot; also one School Committee for three years on a separate ballot; also a Collector of Taxes for the year ensuing, on a separate ballot; also to choose all other necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

ART. 8.—To decide by ballot which shall be "yes" or "no" the question, "Shall licenses be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?

ART. 9.—To see if the town will accept the list of jurors as revised by the Selectmen.

ART. 10.—To raise such sums of money as may be deemed necessary for defraying the expenses of the town for the ensuing year, and appropriate the same, and vote how the same shall be raised.

ART. 11.—To see if the town will authorize its Treasurer to borrow such sums of money in anticipation of the taxes of the current year as may be sanctioned by the Selectmen, the same to be paid from said taxes.

ART. 12.—To see if the town will instruct the Assessors to publish the valuation list and assessment of taxes for current year.

ART. 13.—To see if the town will vote to raise a sum of money to improve the cemeteries of the town.

ART. 14.—To see if the town will provide for the adequate lighting of the streets in town.

ART. 15.—To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-two dollars to defray the expense of winding the clock on Memorial Church.

ART 16.—To see if the Town will instruct their Selectmen to prosecute any person or persons selling or transporting intoxicating liquors within this Town contrary to the laws of the Commonwealth.

ART. 17.—To see what disposition the Town will make of the Dog Fund of 1885.

ART. 18.—To see if the Town will instruct the School Committee to establish and maintain a school in connection with the Town of Hampden, located near the line between Wilbraham and Hampden.

ART. 19.—To see what action the town will take in the matter of insuring our school houses against fire and other damages.

ART. 20.—To see what action the town will take in the matter of the claim of Chauncey E. Peck.

Report of the Selectmen

and Overseers of the Poor.

SCHOOLS.

Total expenditures for salaries of teachers, books and incidentals, . . .		$2,779.59

PAUPERS.

Expended as follows:

A. S. Tufts and wife, board and support at $2.50 per week, each, . .	$260.00	$260.00
Mrs. T. J. Downs and child, board and support at $2.00 per week, . .	49.56	
H. G. Webber, medical attendance, .	4.00	
	———	$53.56
Munn C. Jones and family, supplies, .	44.55	$44.55
F. D. McClintock, board and care, .	25.71	$25.71
Betsey Webster, supplies furnished by M. F. Beebe, ...	9.60	
Supplies furnished by A. J. Blanchard,	32.90	
" " E. B. Gates, .	29.30	
	———	$71.80
Emma L. Bliss, board and care, . .	24.00	
Coal, ...	3.56	
	———	$27.56
Mrs. Daniel Grady, supplies furnished by P. P. Potter, . . .	37.75	
Care and nursing, . . .	12.00	
Supplies furnished by H. K. Wight,	53.05	

Fuel furnished by Edward Haley, .	$35.00	
Medicine " J. H. Losee,	9.40	
Milk " D. C. Jones, .	8.10	
Supplies " JohnCummings	1.75	
Medical attendance by Dr. Squier, .	27.00	
" " Dr. Hannum,	15.50	
	———	$199.55
Calvin Robbins, for lodging tramps, and fuel for tramp house, . .	102.12	
Mowry Bros., for coal, . . .	9.94	
Hubbard & Co., " . . .	1.68	
D. B. Montague, stove and fittings, .	10.28	
	———	$124.02
William Davis, board, care, medicine and clothing, ...	112.51	
Clothing, ...	7.25	
	———	$119.76
Mrs. Amo, supplies furnished by Henry Clark, ...	3.50	
Medical attendance by H. A. Fisk, M. D., ...	25.00	
	———	$28.50
Abbie F. Knight, support at Northampton Lunatic Hospital, . . .		$140.98
Caroline Bliss, support at Northampton Lunatic Hospital, . . .		$172.28
Daniel A. Warner, support at Northampton Lunatic Hospital, . .		$180.98
O. H. Langdon and wife, board and care,	78.00	
Medicine, ...	1.95	
	———	$79.95
John Connell :—		
(Charged to town of Concord, Mass.)		
Board, washing, nursing, etc., by James McDonald, . . .	130.49	
Nursing by Maggie McDonald, .	43.00	
Medical attendance by Dr. Gelineau,	100.00	
Burial expenses and coffin, . .	19.50	
	———	$292.99

John McLear :—		
(Charged to State of Massachusetts.)		
Surgical attendance, . .	5.00	
Carrying to city hospital, . .	4.50	
Support at city hospital, . .	31.50	
R. R. fare, Springfield to Keene, N. H., ...	3.00	
		$44.00
Total expenditures for paupers,		$1,866.19

TOWN OFFICERS AND CONTINGENCES.

SELECTMEN AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

Henry Cutler, ...	45.50	
Henry Clark, ...	63.75	
P. P. Potter, ...	42.00	
		$151.25

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Jason Butler, ...	35.00	
J. L. Rice, ...	35.00	
C. D. Woods, ...	38.75	
		$108.75

ASSESSORS.

A. Chilson, ...	30.00	
W. F. Morgan, ...	31.25	
H. T. Bolles, ...	62.80	
		$124.05

REGISTRARS.

W. M. Green, ...	7.00	
A. D. Seaver, ...	7.00	
J. S. Albray, ...	7.00	
W. E. Stone, ...	10.00	
		$31.00

COLLECTOR OF TAXES.

Hiram Danks, ...		$75.00

A. J. Blanchard, services as Auditor, .	4.50
F. E. Clark, services as Bldg. Com., .	22.00
W. L. Collins, services as undertaker, .	67.00
S. E. Baker, posting town warrants, .	12.00
" notifying town officers, .	10.50
W. E. Stone, postage, stationary, sorting and filing papers, and meeting Town Clerks at Monson, . . .	14.59
W. E. Stone, express and cash paid for legal advice, . . .	6.54
W. E. Stone, recording births, marriages, and deaths, ...	20.70
M. F. Beebe, guide posts and setting. .	$ 1.00
H. G. Weber, returning births, . .	1.00
L. J. Roy, returning births, . .	.25
A. H. Bartlett, printing valuation list, .	38.00
A. H. Bartlett, printing ballots and town reports, ...	28.30
A. H. Bartlett, printing tax bills, .	1.75
Bosworth & Barrows, legal counsel 1885,	4.00
J. D. Gill, collector and assssors' books,	3.73
Springfield Printing Company, order book,	6.50
Orson Knowlton, repairs on water tank, .	1.50
American Road Machine Company, blade for road machine, . . .	6.00
Henry Clark, to setting furniture and cleaning school house District No. 2, .	13.40
Michael Kelley, swine killed by order of the Cattle Commissioners, .	52.50
E. B. Gates, interest on town loan, .	78.50
W. J. Skillings, painting road machine, .	11.25
Wesleyan Academy, rent Music Hall, .	40.00
C. G. Robbins, lease land for tramp house, ...	10.00
Flynt Building and Construction Company plans and specifications for Memorial Hall, ...	85.00

Henry Clark, postage, stationery and telegrams, ...	5.25	
W. E. Stone, storage, postage and stationery, ...	27.60	
		$573.36
Total expenditures for contingencies and Town Officers, . . .		$1063.41

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Expended as follows:

Dist. No. 1,	By Henry Clark, . .	$103.02	
2,	M. J. Kelley, . .	84.01	
3,	A. A. Phelps, . .	106.05	
4,	Luther Markham, .	136.71	
5,	Hiram Danks, . .	113.95	
6,	Alvin Chilson, . .	171.42	
7,	E. E. Clark, . .	109.89	
	Marcus Daniel, . .	10.47	
8,	A. A. Phelps, . .	133.80	
	Town Palmer, grading hill near Walter Green's,	60.00	
	Alden Bros., timber for bridge, . .	7.83	
	Total expenditures for highways and bridges,		$1037.15

LIGHTING STREETS.

Oil, wicks, care, etc., at North Wilbraham,	$ 37.97	
Oil, wicks, care, etc., at Wilbraham street,	45.43	
		$83.40

WINDING TOWN CLOCK.

Benjamin Gill, ...	$ 22.00

CARE OF CEMETERIES.

J. S. Albray, labor in cemetery near Deacon Adams', . . .	$ 6.00	
E. E. Clark, cutting brush in Glendale cemetery, ...	1.00	
Franklin Butler, labor in Butlerville cemetery, ...	8.00	
C. C. Day, labor in Glendale cemetery, .	9.00	
Total expenditure for care cemeteries,		$ 24.00

REPAIRING SCHOOL HOUSES.

Nathaniel Knowlton, plastering in District No. 4, . . .	$ 28.95	
Henry Clark, labor and material in District No. 4, ...	26.33	
W. J. Skillings, painting in District No.8,	75.88	
Total expenditures on school houses,		$131.16

STATE AID ACCOUNT. CHAP. 301 ACTS 1879.

Paid Rowena C. Bliss, . . .	$48.00	
Frances M. Davis, . . .	48.00	
William Butler, . . .	48.00	
A. F. Johnson, . . .	21.00	
Catherine O Hara, . . .	28.00	
		193.00

MILITARY AID. CHAP. 252 ACTS 1879.

Paid O. H. Langdon . . .	72.00	
		$72.00

SUMMARY.

	Expenditures.	Appropriations and Available Funds.
For Schools, . . .	$ 2779.59	$ 3151.80
Paupers, . . .	1866.19	1610.14
Contingences and Town Officers, . . .	1063.41	No appropration
Highways and Bridges, .	1037.15	1200.00
Lighting Streets, . .	83.40	75.00
Winding Town Clock, .	22.00	22.00
Care of Cemeteries, . .	24.00	25.50
Repairs on School Houses, .	131.16	200.00
	$7006.90	6284.44

RESOURCES OF TOWN.

Due from State of Mass., State Aid, .	193.00	
Cattle Commissioners, . .	42.00	
Town of Concord, . .	292.99	
E. E. Clark, grass from Webster place, . . .	15.00	
State Military Aid, . .	36.00	
Cash in Treasury, . .	1393.49	
Total resources of town, . . .		$1,972.48

LIABILITIES.

Due on note, Mrs. Granger, . .	$318.00	
Outstanding bills, . . .	167.00	
Outstanding order, C. E. Peck, . .	302.00	
Flint Construction company, . .	85.00	
		$872.00
Balance in favor of the town, .		$1,100.48

The Selectmen recommend the following appropriations for the ensuing year:

For Schools, ...	$2,500.00
Paupers, ...	1,500.00
Highways and bridges, . .	1,200.00
Contingent expenses, . .	1,500.00
Care of street lamps, . .	75.00
Improving cemeteries, . .	40.00
Winding Town clock, . .	22.00

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY CUTLER,
HENRY CLARK,
PHILIP P. POTTER,
Selectmen of Wilbraham.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in Treasury March 15th, 1886, . .	$2,423.98
Received from M. F. Beebe, for grass and hay from Betsey Webster place, . . .	38.00
Dwight W. Eddy, support at Northampton Insane Hospital of Annise P. Eddy, .	45.50
Town of Ludlow, overpaid, . .	.50
Mary E. Burns, teacher, overpaid, .	8.80
Druggists' license, . . .	1.00
J. M. Merrick, town history, . .	2.00
Henry M. Bliss, auctioneers' license, .	2.00
Burial lots in East Wilbraham cemetery, .	25.50
Town of Palmer, tuition and school books, two years, ...	84.63
Josephine Granger, note outstanding, .	333.00
State Treasurer, support state paupers, .	19.14
State Treasurer, temporary support state paupers, ...	7.50
State Treasurer, corporation tax, . .	256.59
State Treasurer, National bank tax, .	186.05
State Treasurer, state aid, . .	228.00
County Treasurer, dog fund, . .	115.40
State Treasurer, income Massachusetts school fund, ...	216.92
Hiram Danks, collector, . . .	6,078.33
E. B. Gates, town loan committee, interest on town loan, ...	78.50
	$10,151.34

EXPENDITURES.

Paid State tax, ...	$600.00
County tax, ...	836.00
State and military aid—state, $193.00; military, $72.00, ...	265.00
Josephine Granger, endorsed on note, . .	15.00
Assessors' abatements, 1885 taxes, . . .	8.06
Assessors' abatements, 1886 taxes, . . .	111.64
Selectmen's orders, ...	6,921.90
State Treasurer, one-fourth druggist license, .	.25
Cash in Treasury March 15, 1887, . . .	1,393.49
	$10,151.34

WALTER E. STONE, *Town Treasurer.*

Wilbraham, March 15, 1887.

ASSESSORS' REPORT.

Valuation of personal estate,		$150,081.00
Valuation of real estate,		542,030.00
Total valuation,		$692,111.00
Number of Acres of land taxed,		12,931
Dwelling houses,		296
Horses,		224
Cows,		473
Sheep,		68
Poll-tax for men,	$2.00	
Poll tax for women,	.50	
Number of polls at at $2.00 each,	435	
Number of polls at 50 cents each,	1	
Total amount assessed on polls,		$870.50
Total number of persons paying a tax on property,	176	
Total number of persons paying a poll tax only,	259	
Amount of state, county and town tax assessed on property,		$5,189.83
Town tax assessed on property,		3,753.83
Total State tax,	$600.00	
Total County tax,	836.00	
Total Town tax,	4,547.00	
Total tax committed to collector,		$5,060.33

TOWN APPROPRIATIONS.

For lighting streets in town,	$75.00
Winding clock on Memorial Hall,	22.00
Schools,	100.00
Books and supplies for schools,	200.00
Incidentals,	50.00
Permanent repairs of school houses,	200.00
Paupers,	1,500.00
Highways and bridges,	1,200.00
Contingencies,	1,200.00

NUMBER OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

District No. 1, 10; No. 2, 44; No. 3, 35; No. 4, 49; No. 5, 19; No. 6, 23; No. 7, 16; No. 8, 44. Total number of children, 240.

No. Militia,	215
No. of dogs,	60
No. of steam boilers,	14

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

School houses, $13,000; Cemeteries, $1000; Water works, $500; Fire apparatus, $100. Total assets, not including cash in treasury, $14,600.

H. T. BOLLES,
W. FRANKLIN MORGAN,
ALVIN CHILSON,
} *Assessors of Wilbraham.*

Wilbraham, March 16, 1887.

Report of the School Committee of the TOWN OF WILBRAHAM.

The School Committee of the Town of Wilbraham submit the following report:

The schools during the year just closing have, on the whole, been very successful. The Spring Term in No. 6 was an exception to this. While the teacher employed came to us highly recommended, and was, from an educational standpoint, amply qualified to teach the scholars of the district, her powers of government were so small that her term's work was a failure, and the school was closed after having been kept seven weeks. We were fortunate in the selection of her successor, and the school has been put into first-class condition, and the work done has been of an excellent character.

There have not been scholars enough to warrant maintaining a school in No. 1. The school was opened in the Spring, but after three weeks it was closed, only five scholars having appeared.

Only one school was maintained in No. 2 during the Spring and Fall, but in the Winter both rooms were occupied, as the number of scholars warranted the extra school.

Both schools at No. 8 were closed in the seventh week of the Winter Term on account of the prevalence of scarlet fever in the Depot Village. After remaining closed four weeks they were again opened, but so few scholars appeared it was thought best to close them till the Spring Term. They opened for the Spring Term March 21st, two weeks before the other schools, and the term will be of thirteen weeks in order to make up for part of the time lost in Winter.

During the latter half of the Winter Term a vacation was given to Miss Beebe, the teacher in No. 7, on account of her health, and the term was finished by Miss Cora Pease. Miss Beebe is expecting to resume her duties in the Spring Term. The other schools in the town have been kept open the same number of weeks as last year, viz, thirty-four, and they have been successfully taught.

From some reason not evident to us, there has been a falling off throughout the year in the attendance at some of the schools, so that during the Winter Term there were thirty-two less scholars in our schools than in the preceding spring. In this connection we would earnestly call the attention of parents to the importance of sending their children to the schools, and sending them *regularly*. The average attendance of scholars for the year was 78 per cent of the number registered in the schools. This number of absences practically reduces the amount of schooling more than one-fifth, the number of school days per week from five to four, and the number of weeks of school from thirty-four to twenty-seven. Not only does this irregularity in attendance affect the scholar who is absent, but it affects the scholarship of each school and interferes with thoroughness and completeness of the work of instruction. Allow us to again urge upon parents the fact that an absence from school is not a light matter.

The long established custom of employing, when practical, residents of the town as teachers, and of retaining the same teachers term after term, has been kept up, and, in our opinion, much of the success that has attended our schools is due to this latter fact. In the term just opening there is only one change in teachers, and this does not give us a new teacher, but is a transfer from one school to another.

Some years ago it was found necessary to reduce the salaries paid teachers, and this was effected by a scaling down of ten per cent. This left the salaries at very peculiar amounts as, $25.20, $28.80 and $30.60 per month. These have been slightly modified so that we are now paying $26, $28 and $30 per month.

The only repairs made during the year, were plastering the walls and ceiling of No. 4 and painting the outside of No. 8. Our school houses are now in very good condition, and will not need to have any expenditures of importance upon them during the coming year.

Before submitting our financial report, a few words of explanation may help to a clearer understanding.

At the last town meeting we asked for and obtained the appropriation with the expectation that there would be ten schools of three terms each, making an aggregate of 340 weeks. As stated above, the number of pupils in No. 1 was so small that it was closed after running only three weeks, and while No. 2 was a very large school, we thought it better economy to pay higher wages to one teacher than to run two schools during the Spring and Fall. These facts, with the unexpected shortening of Nos. 6 and 8, reduced the total number of weeks of school to 275, or five-sixths of time anticipated. As seen from this we ought to have one-sixth of the appropriation left in the treasury, which will be seen to be the case. The item of books and supplies is unusually large this year from the fact that one bill amounting to $144.96 should have been paid from last years' appropriation, but was presented too late, and hence appears in this years' expenses. The Town of Palmer finds it more convenient to have some of its scholars attend school No. 6 in this town, than to provide schooling in Palmer for them. As this does not interfere with the success of the school in any way, this has been permitted, and the town of Palmer has been charged a proportional part of the expenses of the school. For amount thus received see below.

The revenues for the current year have been :—

Appropriation for schools, . . .	$2500.00
Appropriation for books, supplies, etc., . .	250.00
From Mass. School Fund, . . .	216.92
From Dog Tax of 1885, . . .	100.25
Interest on Town Loan, ...	78.50

Town of Palmer, tuition for 1884–5, . .	32.16
Town of Palmer, tuition for 1885–6, . .	52.47
Total, ...	$3230.30
Total expenditures for schools, 1886–7, . .	2779.92
Balance in treasury, . .	$450.38

From the liability of its being necessary to maintain ten schools, part or all of the year, we would recommend the same appropriations for the following year as were made for the present, viz :—

Appropriation, ...	$2500.00
Books and supplies, ...	250.00
Total, ...	$2750.00

Respectfully submitted,

JASON BUTLER,
JESSIE L. RICE, } *Committee.*
CHAS. D. WOODS,

ROLL OF HONOR.

NOT ABSENT OR TARDY ONE TERM.

Joseph Baldwin,
Cora Beebe,
Leon J. Bennett,
Clara Brunelle,
Flossie Brunelle,
Joseph Brunelle,
Luther Butler,
Minnie Callahan,
Jimmie Canty,
Patsey Conery,
Jimmie Connors,
Minnie Connors,
Robert Coote,
Charlie Day,
Henry I. Edson,
Lizzie Foskit,
Willie Foskit,
E. Grace Greene,
Lydia Greene,
Stella M. Greene,
Annie Hakey,
Mary Lynch,
Johnnie Lyons,
Albert Markham,
Arthur Miller,
Bertie Pease,
Charlie Phelps,
Sarah Phelps,
Tommie Powers,
Charlie Raymond,
Arthur Ricker,
George Rist,
Allyn Seaver,
George Stebbens,
Arthur Stevens,
John Stevens,
Lizzie Stevens,
Russell C. Stevens,
Josie Sweeney,
Herbert E. Tupper,
John Wynn,
Julia Wynn,

Chas. E. Hollingworth.

NOT ABSENT OR TARDY TWO TERMS.

Louise Baker,
George Bosthwick,
May Canty,
Gertrude A. Chase,
Ella Fitzgerald,
Frank Foskit,
Herbert F. Greene,
William W. Greene,
Charlie Stone,
Alice Veasy,
Kate Wynn,
Arthur Gill,

Cora E. Hollinsworth.

NOT ABSENT OR TARDY ONE YEAR.

Blanche B. Butler,
Olive L. Greene,
Cassius B. Seaver,
James Seaver,
Willie Taylor,
Nora Wynn.

NOT ABSENT OR TARDY TWO YEARS.

Ida J. Butler,
Benj. C. Butler,
Albert H. H. Butler,
Willie M. Morgan.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Number of School.	Grade of School.	Length of School in Weeks.	Monthly Wages paid to Teachers.			Whole No. of Pupils.			Average Attendance of Pupils.			Incidentals.	Total Teachers' Wages.	Total expenditures for Schools.	NAMES OF TEACHERS.		
			Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter				Spring.	Fall.	Winter.
1	Ungraded.	3	$25.20			5			5				$ 20.16	$ 20.16	Cora M. Pease,		
2	Primary.	34	32.00	$32.00	$30.00	50	55	39	38	43	33	$46.41	266.50	395.41	Mary E. Burns,	Mary E. Burns,	Mary E. Burns,
2	Advanced.	11			30.00			21			16		82.50				Nancy M. Bragg,
3	Ungraded.	34	28.80	30.00	30.00	33	29	26	26	23	18	27.50	251.70	279.20	M. Adele Pease,	Fannie Merrick,	Fannie Merrick,
4	Ungraded.	34	30.60	30.60	30.00	35	32	28	33	28	26	37.70	258.30	296.00	Jennie H. Swift,	Clara A. Markham,	Clara A. Markham,
5	Ungraded.	34	25.20	26.00	28.00	26	18	19	14	15	16	29.02	224.80	253.82	Emma W. Vinton,	Emma W. Vinton,	Emma W. Vinton,
6	Ungraded.	31	28.80	30.00	30.00	34	32	31	28	21	25	8.68	230.40	239.08	Sarah E. Norton,	Luella J. Bancroft,	Luella J. Bancroft,
7	Ungraded.	34	25.20	26.00	28.00	17	17	13	12	14	12	30.50	218.80	249.30	Evanore O. Beebe,	Evanore O. Beebe,	Evanore O. Beebe, Cora M. Pease,
8	Primary.	30	28.80	30.00	30.00	40	35	27	36	28	16	*603.55	221.70	*1,046.95	Fannie Stebbins,	Jennie H. Swift,	Jennie H. Swift,
8	Advanced.	30	28.80	30.00	30.00	26	29	30	18	24	24		221.70		Maria E. Bliss,	Maria E. Bliss,	Maria E. Bliss.
	Totals.	275	253.40	234.60	266.00	266	247	234	210	196	186	783.36	1,996.56	2,779.92			

*Including $538.60 for books and supplies for all the schools.

REPORTS

OF THE

Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor,

TREASURER,

School Committee and Assessors,

OF THE

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

March 15, 1879.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.:
THE CLARK W. BRYAN COMPANY, PRINTERS.
1879.

REPORTS

OF THE

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Articles in Town Warrant.*

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said Meeting.

ART. 2. To hear the Annual Reports of the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor, Treasurer, School Committee, and all Committees whose duty it may be to report to this meeting, and act thereon.

ART. 3. To determine the number of School Committee the town will elect, and the time they shall serve.

ART. 4. To determine the manner of electing Collectors of Taxes; also to see if the town will vote to add interest to all taxes unpaid after a certain date.

ART. 5. To determine the manner of repairing the Highways and Bridges; also to determine the number and manner of electing Highway Surveyors for the ensuing year; also to see if the town will fix the compensation for labor on the highways.

ART. 6. To see if the town will instruct their School Committee to appoint a Superintendent of Schools in accordance with the Statutes; and fix his salary.

ART. 7. To choose a Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, three Selectmen who shall be Overseers of the Poor, three Assessors, and one School Committee for three years; also such others, if any, as the town shall vote to choose; four Constables, four Fence-viewers, all on one ballot; also to choose all other necessary town officers for the year ensuing.

ART. 8. To see if the town will accept the list of Jurors as revised by the Selectmen.

ART. 9. To see what disposition the town will make of the Dog Fund now in the hands of the Treasurer.

ART. 10. To see if the town will vote to refund to John Lines the whole or any part of taxes collected of him, assessed on land he did not own.

ART. 11. To see if the town will vote to pay to Wells L. Phelps amount of tuition for his children's schooling in the City of Springfield.

ART. 12. To see if the town will vote to move the school-house in former District No. 8 to near the brow of the hill on Joseph Baldwin's land, and make all necessary additions thereto; or vote to move said school-house to near the corner of the roads near the house of John Hitchcock; and purchase a site for the same; or vote to sell the present school-house in said District; or vote to build a new school-house in said District and locate the same, and to pass all votes and choose all Committees necessary to carry the same into effect; and to raise such sums of money as may be necessary for the same.

ART. 13. To see if the town will vote to purchase a site, and move the school-house in No. 12 to some point further south, so as better to accommodate those families formerly sending to No. 3 school-house, and choose all Committees and pass all votes necessary to carry the same into effect.

ART. 14. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary for the ensuing year, and appropriate the same, and vote how the same shall be raised.

ART. 15. To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

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*Voters will find it convenient if they think to bring a copy of the warrant with them to Town Meeting.

REPORT

OF THE

Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor.

SCHOOLS.

Appropriation by the Town for Schools,		$1,800 00
Repairs on School Houses,		150 00
Interest on Town Loan,		78 50
Dog fund appropriated for schools,		118 93
State school fund,		226 99
Total available for schools,		$2,374 42

The School Committee, alone, being responsible for the expenditure of the money available for support of schools, the Selectmen have given orders for bills approved by them to the amount of $2,219 54

A detailed account of school expenses will be found in the Report of the School Committee.

PAUPERS.

Town appropriation for the support of paupers,		$1,700 00
Paid for the support of paupers as follows:		
Hospital for Insane, Northampton, for D. A. Warner,	$199 09	
Hospital for Insane, Northampton, for Caroline Bliss,	186 75	

Hospital for Insane, Northampton, for Ann M. Clark,	$186 80	
Hospital for Insane, Northampton, for Harriet Goodell,	45 ~~50~~ 82	
Hospital for Insane, Brattleboro, for Sophronia Scripter,	45 50	
		$663 96
State Reform School, Westboro, for Edward W. Colton,		16 00
Geo. W. Ely, for provisions for John Conner,		4 00
R. M. Day, for board of Alvin Banister,	$35 00	
D. W. Bottom, for medical attendance on Banister,	4 00	
E. W. Dickinson, for coffin and robe for Banister,	11 25	
		50 25
R. M. Day., for board of Caroline Abbe,	$19 00	
M. F. Beebe, for time and expenses to Tewksbury with Miss Abbe,	17 00	
		36 00
Edmund Bliss, for provisions for C. M. Willard,	$6 00	
R. M. Day, for board of C. M. Willard,	51 00	
Ira G. Potter, for board of C. M. Willard,	1 00	
Ira G. Potter, for clothing for C. M. Willard,	6 75	
		64 75
City of Springfield and others for Mrs. Nellie Gilligan and five children,		247 51
City of Springfield and others for Mrs. Nettie H. Paige and four children,		111 28
Stebbins Foskitt, for medical attendance on Darrah family,	$5 25	
Mowry Brothers, for provisions for Darrah family in 1877,	1 00	
		6 25
M. F. Beebe, for clothing for Reuben Cadwell,	$4 95	
Asa Beebe, for board of Reuben Cadwell,	21 43	
		26 38
Town of Palmer, for aid to Mrs. Rose Grady,		20 45
Town of Wendell, for support of Lamson children,	$12 50	

F. E. Clark, for time and expenses to Wendell after Lamson children,	$8 48	
E. F. Lemon, for clothing for Lamson children.	7 13	
E. B. Gates, for materials for clothing for Lamson children,	5 21	
E. F. Lemon, for board of Lamson children,	77 70	
		$111 02
Geo. W. Ely, for coal and rent of tenement for Mrs. Colgrove,		30 50
E. W. Dickinson, for coffin and box for Asael Curtis,		11 00
Stebbins Foskitt, for medical attendance on John Q. Williams,	$25 50	
M. F. Beebe, for cash paid for board and expenses of John Q. Williams,	15 25	
		40 75
Ira G. Potter, for cash paid burial expenses of Dennis Shoughrae,		10 00
Phineas Knowlton, for board and care of Elizabeth A. Donald,	$15 00	
Stebbins Foskitt, for medical attendance on Elizabeth A. Donald,	13 ~~16~~ 26	
E. W. Dickinson, for coffin for Elizabeth A. Donald,	8 00	
		36 26
C. G. Robbins, for keeping 373 tramps,	$93 25	
Geo. W. Ely, for coal for Tramp-house,	8 74	
		~~111~~ 101 99
Total expended for paupers,		$1,588 35

Of the above the following sums have been refunded:

From City of Boston, last year's account for H. Wilson,	$3 75
Town of Brimfield, last year's account, for Mrs. Colgrove,	56 76
Town of Brimfield, this year's account for Mrs. Colgrove,	30 50
Town of Palmer 1875, account for C. L. Stetson,	15 00

Town of Stockbridge, for aid to John Q. Williams,	$40 75	
State Treasurer, State Pauper account,	48 26	
State Treasurer, transporting State paupers,	4 80	
		$199 82

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Town appropriation for highways and bridges,		$1,200 00
Paid as follows:		
To James Richard, surveyor, District No. 1,	$99 09	
Luther Markham, surveyor, District No. 2,	83 40	
Albert A. Phelps, surveyor, District No. 3,	121 39	
Austin Davis, surveyor, District No. 7,	115 59	
George W. Tupper, surveyor, District No. 8,	202 94	
Alvin Chilson, surveyor, District No. 9,	144 64	
John Trask, surveyor, District No. 11,	91 77	
John S. Albray, surveyor, District No. 12,	55 37	
Phineas Knowlton, repairing Canal bridge,	75	
		$914 94

CONTINGENT ACCOUNT AND TOWN OFFICERS.

Town appropriation for contingent account and Town officers,		$900 00
Paid as follows:		
Decius Beebe, committee on division of town last year,	$35 25	
S. C. Spellman, committee on division of town last year,	30 50	
Wm. R. Sessions, committee on division of town last year,	13 25	
Stearns, Knowlton & Long, retainer and counsel last year,	33 00	
The Clark W. Bryan Co., for printing reports, assessors books, etc.,	57 71	

C. E. Peck, for lantern guard for Collins bridge,	$1 50
Henry Clark, for posting warrants,	13 50
Stockwell Bettes, for surveying and expenses on Hampden and Wilbraham line,	56 00
F. E. Clark, for services and expenses on town line and erecting monuments,	14 50
M. F. Beebe, for services and expenses on town line and erecting monuments,	11 00
Ira G. Potter, for services and expenses on town line and erecting monuments,	2 00
C. E. Peck, for services and expenses on town line and erecting monuments,	2 00
A. J. Blanchard, for services and expenses on town line and erecting monuments,	12 00
W. L. Collins, for going with hearse and digging graves,	107 75
C. C. Beebe, for summoning witnesses in Burley road case,	1 50
C. C. Beebe, for cash paid witness in Burley road case,	15 60
Phineas Knowlton, for repairs on Collins bridge,	4 75
George H. Morgan, for hitching post at Butlerville cemetery,	8 77
Treasurer Wesleyan Academy, for use of Music Hall for Town meetings,	50 00
M. F. Beebe, for expenses to Brookfield in Moulton case,	4 60
Town of Hampden, for Hampden's share of Town clerks fees returned,	3 82
Springfield Republican, for advertising for proposals for school house No. 8,	3 30
S. C. Spellman, for collecting taxes for 1876,	55 00
Morris & Copeland, for counsel to Selectmen,	2 00
Asa Benton, for digging graves for Ruby Giles last year,	2 00
E. B. Gates, for recording marriages, births and deaths,	26 30

E. B. Gates, for express, storage, stationery and postage,	$35 00
E. B. Gates, for Town Loan Committee, interest on Town Loan,	78 50
Geo. W. Ely, for rent of building for fire apparatus,	5 00
F. E. Clark, for stationery and postage,	9 00
F. E. Clark, for time and expenses to Chicopee and Northampton in A. M. Clarks' case,	6 40
A. J. Blanchard for express bills and postage,	3 41

TOWN OFFICERS.

SELECTMEN AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

F. E. Clark.	85,00	
Ira G. Potter.	50,50	
M. F. Beebe.	40,00	
		175,50

ASSESSORS.

A. J. Blanchard,	$90 00	
D. B. Merrick,	65 00	
C. E. Peck,	32 00	
		$187 00

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

J. M. Foster,	$55 50	
Jason Butler,	39 50	
A. J. Blanchard,	37 50	
		$132 50

Total for contingencies and town officers, $1,199 91

SCHOOL HOUSE FENCE, DISTRICT NO. 11.

Town appropriation,		$60 00
Paid as follows:		
Smith & Stewart, for materials,	$5 26	
H. A. Robinson, for lumber,	14 23	

Lucius Simonds, for lumber,	$32 16	
James P. Streeter, for posts,	7 44	
C. M. Willard, for building fence,	11 60	
		$70 69

SCHOOL HOUSE DISTRICT NO. 8.

Town appropriation for school-house No. 8,		$800 00
Paid as follows:		
B. & A. R. R. freight on school furniture,	$6 80	
Sherwood School Furniture Co., for school furniture,	58 20	
C. E. Peck, for labor in changing and putting in furniture,	5 00	
C. C. Beebe, for labor in changing and putting in furniture,	2 00	
F. E. Clark, for labor in changing and putting in furniture,	1 50	
F. E. Clark, cash for stove pipe,	40	
Phineas Knowlton, for work on stove pipe,	50	
Wm. Kent, for assisting on specifications for school-house,	1 00	
Total paid on school-house No. 8,		$75 40

COLLINS BRIDGE.

Town appropriation for bridge,		$500 00
Received of C. H. M. Newell, for old plank,		12 70
		$512 70
Paid as follows:		
Stockwell Bettes, for survey and specifications for pier and superstructure, etc.,	$20 20	
A. D. Briggs, for counsel on bridge contract,	5 00	
Goldsmith & Bramble, for one-half of contract for pier, superstructure, grading, planking, railing, and extras,	735 00	
		$760 20

STATE AID ACCOUNT.

(No town appropriation.)

Orders given on the treasurer as follows:		
To Mrs. Rowena C. Bliss, to March 1, 1879,	$48 00	
Mrs. Mary Rice, to March 1, 1379,	48 00	
Mrs. Isabella G. Daniels, to June 1, 1878,	12 00	
Mrs. Angenette D. Coash, to April 1, 1878,	4 00	
		$112 00

SUMMARY.

	APPROPRIATIONS AND AVAILABLE FUNDS.	AMOUNTS EXPENDED
For Schools,	$2,374 42	$2,219 54
Paupers,	1,700 00	1,588 35
Highways and bridges,	1,200 00	914 94
Contingencies and town officers,	900 00	1,199 91
School house fence No. 11,	60 00	70 69
School house, District No. 8,	800 00	75 40
Collins bridge,	500 00	760 20
State aid,		112 00
Paying debt of the town,	400 00	
	$7,934 42	$6,941 03

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

One note to Warren Collins,	$400 00	
One note to Lucetta Howlett,	125 00	
One note to A. O. Thresher,	150 00	
One note to Horace Clark,	482 71	
One note to Ira G. Potter,	100 00	
Interest due April 1st, on the above, estimated,	100 00	
Paupers and other bills due April 1st, estimated,	200 00	
Due J. M. Foster for money advanced E. B. Bloomer,	7 00	
Due Town of Ludlow, lighting and repairs on Collins and Red bridges, about,	14 00	
		$1,578 71

RESOURCES OF THE TOWN.

Due from State Treasurer for State aid,	$152 00	
Due from County Treasurer for Dog fund,	108 20	
Due from D. A. Atchinson, Collector for 1877,	698 00	
Due from Geo. W. Ely, Collector for 1878,	1,582 45	
Cash in the Treasury,	584 23	
Total Resources of the Town,		$3,124 88
Balance in favor of the town,		$1,546 17

The Selectmen recommend the following appropriations for the ensuing year:

For schools,	$1,800 00
Paupers,	1,600 00
Highways and bridges,	1,000 00
Contingencies and town officers,	1,000 00
School-house, District No. 8,	800 00
Site for, and moving school-house No. 12,	150 00

Respectfully submitted,

F. E. CLARK,
IRA G. POTTER,
M. F. BEEBE.
} *Selectmen of Wilbraham.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Town of Wilbraham in account with E. B. Gates, Treasurer of the Town of Wilbraham for the year ending, March 15, 1879.

Cr.

By Cash in Treasury, March 15, 1879,	$54 61
Cash from County Treasurer, dog fund,	192 48
Cash from Horace Clark, temporary loan,	482 71
Cash from Ira G. Potter, temporary loans,	300 00
Cash from Palmer Savings Bank, temporary loan,	1,500 00
Cash from Second National Bank, Springfield, temporary loan,	1000 00
Cash from State Treasurer, Corporation tax,	67 71
Cash from State Treasurer, National Bank tax,	186 26
Cash from State Treasurer, State Aid refunded,	240 00
Cash from State Treasurer, for expense in recount of votes for sheriff,	10 00
Cash from State Treasurer, School fund,	226 99
Cash from State Treasurer, Transportation of State paupers,	4 80
Cash from State Treasurer, aid to State paupers,	48 26
Cash from Town of Hampden, in settlement,	544 17
Cash from Town of Hampden, State tax,	210 14
Cash from Town of Hampden, County tax,	390 49
Cash from Town of Palmer, burial expenses of E. S. Stebbins,	15 00
Cash from City of Boston for Wilson family,	3 75
Cash from Town of Brimfield, aid to Mrs. Colgrove,	87 26
Cash from Town of Stockbridge, aid to J. Q. Williams,	40 75
Cash from Ira G. Potter for C. M. Willard's corn,	5 00

Cash from John M. Merrick, sale of Town histories,	$8 00
Cash from Town of Palmer for tuition of Palmer children,	26 82
Cash from Jerome B. Calkins for tuition of Alice Currier,	4 98
Cash from H. M. Bliss, for school-house district No. 3,	41 00
Cash from Mrs. C. H. M. Newell, for old bridge plank,	12 70
Cash from Town Loan Committee, interest on Town loan,	78 50
Cash from Alvin Chilson, collector for 1875,	57 52
Cash from S. C. Spellman, collector for 1876,	189 54
Cash from D. A. Atchinson, collector for 1877,	1,352 29
Cash from Geo. W. Ely, collector for 1878,	6,092 18
	$13,473 91

Dr.

To Cash paid note to Horace Clark,	$600 00
Cash paid interest on Horace Clark note,	51 56
Cash paid note to First National Bank, Springfield,	800 00
Cash paid Second National Bank, Springfield, temporary loan,	1000 00
Cash paid Palmer Savings Bank, temporary loan,	1,500 00
Cash paid Ira G. Potter, temporary loan,	200 00
Cash paid interest on temporary loans,	79 58
Cash paid note to M. Walker,	150 00
Cash paid interest on M. Walker's note,	13 48
Cash paid interest on L. Howlett's note,	8 75
Cash paid for recording deed,	50
Cash paid for blank certificates, for dog licenses,	1 00
Cash paid State Treasurer, State tax,	550 00
Cash paid State aid,	112 00
Cash paid Town of Hampden, Corporation tax,	9 40
Cash paid Town of Hampden, National Bank tax,	31 07
Cash paid Assessor's abatements, 1878,	34 56
Cash paid Assessor's abatements, 1877,	14 50
Cash paid old orders outstanding March 15, 1878,	904 25
Cash paid Selectmen's orders,	6,829 03
Cash in Treasury,	584 23
	$13,473 91

ASSESSOR'S REPORT.

In accordance with a vote of the town passed May 9, 1878, your Assessors have made a careful, thorough, and impartial appraisal of the property of Wilbraham with the following results, in comparison with the valuation of the property within the limits of the present town of Wilbraham in 1877:

	1878.	1877.	Increase.
Valuation of real estate,	$498,134	$465,477	$32,657
Valuation of personal property,	166,090	121,243	44,846
Total valuation,	$664,224	$586,721	
Increase,			$77,503

The large increase in valuation needs, perhaps, a word of explanation.

Many at first sight might suppose that we have raised the valuation of the property taxed in 1877, the amount indicated by the above figures. But not so. We entered upon our work with the intention of making our valuation upon nearly the same basis as has been followed heretofore, simply adding to the value of such property as we found assessed below the standard, and deducting from such as we found assessed above; endeavoring in this manner to establish a just comparative valuation of all the property throughout the town, without materially increasing or diminishing its valuation as a whole. We succeeded in accomplishing our design, very nearly—so far as relates

to the property taxed in 1877, the increase being due to the following causes :

Of the increase in real estate, about $16,000, or nearly one-half, is owing to the erection and completion of new buildings within the town during the previous year. Of the remainder a large portion is due to the enhanced value of land from building thereon, or in its immediate vicinity; to the taxation of numerous small farm buildings, as grain barns, carriage-houses, shops, sheds, etc., that have been heretofore untaxed, and to the finding of several parcels of land, some of them quite valuable, amounting in all to nearly 200 acres (as per the following table), which had previously escaped taxation.

The increase in personal property arises in part from our obtaining by careful and persistent inquiry, $25,900 more "Money at Interest" than was taxed in 1877. The remainder comes from the "Stock in Trade" of the new store at Collins Depot, and the "Stock in Trade" and machinery at Cutler's mill, never before taxed, the three items amounting to $21,300. The increase from these two sources, it will be perceived, is $47,200, or $2,354 more than the absolute increase as above, leaving the present valuation of the personal property taxed in 1877 less, by about 2 per cent than in that year.

Upon the completion of our appraisal, realizing the absolute impossibility of revising the valuation without making many mistakes, we posted notices throughout the town inviting the tax-papers to examine our work and point out to us any errors they might discover therein, that mistakes as far as possible, might be corrected previous to the assessment of the taxes. Our invitation met with but a feeble response.

But upon their receiving a more potent invitation in the form of a tax bill from the collector, inviting them to "walk up to his office and settle" their tax dues for the current year, the attention of many of the tax-payers was

more forcibly called to the fact that we had been making changes in their valuation, and our work has received a pretty thorough examination from them.

All errors of importance that have been pointed out to us, we have endeavored to remedy by Abatements.

We are aware that our work is still imperfect, and would recommend that the next Board of Assessors carefully review and correct it, that this good begun work of equalizing the burdens of taxation may approximate perfection.

We append the following in conformity with the custom of previous years, comparing some of the items with like items in 1877:

	1878.	1877.
Number of dwelling-houses,	267	261
Number of acres of land taxed,	12,687	12,494
Number of horses,	241	231
Number of cows,	471	468
Number of sheep,	31	104
Number of polls,	363	360
Poll tax,	$2.00	$2.00
Rate per cent.,	1.20	1.25

TOWN APPROPRIATIONS.

For schools,	$1,800 00	
Repairing of school-houses,	150 00	
Paupers,	1,700 00	
Highways and bridges,	1,200 00	
Town officers and contingencies,	900 00	
Payment of debt,	400 00	
Raising Collins bridge and putting pier under the same,	500 00	
Fencing school-house lot, District No. 11,	60 00	
Enlarging school-house, District No. 8,	800 00	
		$7,510 00

State tax,	$339 86
County tax,	631 57
Over-layings,	215 26
Total committed to collector,	$8,696 69

Respectfully submitted,

A. JACKSON BLANCHARD,
D. BRAINARD MERRICK,
CHAUNCEY E. PECK.
} *Assessors of Wilbraham.*

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REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Of the Town of Wilbraham, for 1878–9.

No topic ought to be considered of more vital importance to the citizens of a town, than the education of the young.

The condition of our schools should be carefully examined, and awaken a deep interest not only on account of the expense incurred, but also the influence they will have upon the community.

History tells us that no nation can be strong and permanent, unless the citizens are moral, intelligent, and educated.

It also teaches that crime and vice flourish most where the education of the masses is neglected. Is it not then of the first importance that our schools be as efficient and useful as possible, and that all our school population be brought under their influence?

To permit our children to enter upon the active duties of life without the discipline which our schools afford, would be as great folly as to send men into battle without military drill, or equipments.

Our schools for the past year compare favorably with former years. To some we can point with pleasure, knowing that they have done noble work. This is in a great measure due to the policy of your committee which

has been adhered to, in this, as in previous years to make no change of teachers unless for good and substantial reasons.

We sometimes hear the remark, "a change is needed, she has been there long enough." This is a mistake. A change of teachers involves a change of school government and discipline. It also deranges the classification of the school.

When a change is made it frequently requires weeks to get the school well at work; whereas if the same teacher is retained the school goes on from term to term without loss of time.

One of the greatest hindrances with which we have to contend is found in irregular attendance. The scholar who is habitually absent, soon falls behind his class. If his connection with his class is dissolved he loses the enthusiasm which association with those of his own age imparts, and is deprived of one of the principal incentives to study.

If his connection with his class continues he can but show his inferiority in his recitations. The result is, he has no inducement to study, and willingly stands at the foot of the class where he will remain through his school days if not through life. A pupil habitually irregular, injures his class by retarding it, or the whole school if separated from it by taking the teachers time from the other classes. The result is obvious. The habit of negligence becomes firmly fixed, causing great injury to his own interests and also to others should they be so injudicious as to employ him.

Although your Committee have in former reports spoken of the influence parents have upon the schools, we would again remind them that they ought to recognize their responsibility. They ought not to feel that the Committee alone are responsible for the schools.

Parents ought to interest themselves enough to see

that their children are in the school regularly and promptly. By examining in the School Registers the lists of visitors to the schools we find an average of three parents have visited each school. What different results might have been expected had the parents been frequent visitors.

The pupils would have been more punctual and studious. They would have acquired confidence. There would have been greater ease and freedom of expression and manners, which is no small part of a good education.

We earnestly desire that parents will frequently visit the schools, consult freely with the Teacher and Committee concerning the welfare of their children, feeling, that we all have one aim, namely, the highest prosperity of the schools.

Since by the division of the town and the closing of one school, the number of our schools has been diminished nearly one-half, and the numbers not being consecutive, the Committee have in accordance with the vote of the town renumbered them as follows:

No. 1.	Atchinson,	No. 1.
No. 11.	Langdon, changed to	No. 2.
No. 12.	Merrick, changed to	No. 3.
No. 2.	Wright, changed to	No. 4.
No. 8.	Collins Depot, changed to	No. 5.
No. 9.	Butler, changed to	No. 6.
No. 7.	Glendale,	No. 7.

The first and last retaining their former numbers.

Owing to the liberality of the town in voting money for permanent improvements we have been able to make the following:

Nos. 1 and 4 have been grained, calcimined and whitewashed. Nos. 4, 6 and 7 have been painted outside; No. 7 calcimined and whitewashed. No. 1 has had blackboards put upon all its walls making them more useful as well as more durable than plaster.

These improvements have not only been necessary to preserve the buildings, but have added much to their appearance. In this connection we would say to the Town, make your school-rooms agreeable and healthful, as well as useful.

Good taste and a tidy appearance about the school buildings, instruct those who have occasion to pass them as well as those who are to occupy them.

It is an interesting fact that children not only are willing to go double the distance to such a school, but they take pleasure in keeping the premises in order. The Town having voted a liberal appropriation for schools, your Committee have been able to continue all the schools thirty-four weeks, an increase of two weeks over that of any previous year.

It is hoped the Town will continue to show as much interest in the success of the schools the coming year as in the past, by appropriating as liberal an amount for their benefit.

The question of school accommodations for No. 5, (Collins Depot) is one which must be met this year. As is well known, the school-room is not large enough to accommodate those of school age in that section. Your Committee found after canvassing the district that not more than three-fourths of the children, between five and fifteen years of age, could be by any means seated in the present school building.

That all might have school privileges, another room was secured where a school for the younger portion of the scholars was established, giving to that section of the town, graded schools.

Your Committee hope that the town may so settle the question that graded schools may be continued, since all educators are agreed, that the pupils in graded schools progress more rapidly than in mixed schools.

Could this be done each teacher has only half as many

classes, consequently she can spend twice as much time with each as can a teacher in a mixed school. It has been suggested by some, that the mountain portion of the district be united with a part of No. 7 (Glendale) and so have one school on the mountain and one in the village.

To this plan your Committee think there are great objections. We have had in the Glendale school for the past three years an average of eight scholars, a school very much too small to be agreeable to the teacher or profitable to the pupils. The idea of reducing that number to create another equally small school, needs but to be mentioned to be rejected.

Supposing the plan as far as the mountain section feasible, it would require two schools to properly accommodate the village; since there are some seventy children between five and fifteen years of age.

Since the site for a new building seemed to be the question of greatest importance, and the one which caused the most serious objection to building last year, it is hoped a compromise may be affected, so that all parties can work together harmoniously.

When we build a store, a post-office, or a church, we, instead of locating it in the center of the town, put it where it will best accommodate the public. Why not locate our school-houses in the same way? Why should one child on one side be permitted to control ten on the other?

Why should one dollar on one side control ten on the other? This building is for the benefit of a certain section of the town why should not the majority in that section be permitted to say what site shall be selected?

It has been suggested that the house be placed on the land now owned by Mr. Baldwin, east of the Chapel, bounded by the mountain road on the west and south, the east line commencing on the highway under the hill near a large maple tree, extending northerly to land

owned by Warren Collins, thence due west to the highway. This, it looks to us would be a meeting half way for those who insisted upon having the house at the foot and those who were willing to come to the brow of the hill.

For this situation we would say, that it is not in so bleak a place as on the hill, would be a pleasant location overlooking the village and pure spring water could be procured near by.

As to the building we would say, that should it be thought best, the present building might be moved upon the lot, another built similar to it, the same porch with entrances on opposite sides answering for both, yet the rooms be as distinct and separate as though upon different lots.

In a former report we suggested that the Cross house be sold and the Merrick (No 3.) house be moved to some point further south. The Cross house having been sold, it is desirable that the house No. 3 be moved to some point near the "Green" and be remodeled so as to meet the wants of that part of the town.

We recommend for the coming year the following sums:

For schools,	$1,800 00
Permanent repairs,	50 00
Total,	$1,850 00

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. FOSTER,
JASON BUTLER,
A. J. BLANCHARD,
} *School Committee of Wilbraham.*

ROLL OF HONOR.

NAMES OF SCHOLARS WHO HAVE BEEN NEITHER ABSENT NOR TARDY DURING ONE TERM.

Nellie Atchinson,
Louisa Richards,
Frank Lyman,
George Lyman,
Emma Lyman,
Cora Pease,
Maggie Donahue,
Mary Warner,
Sadie Campbell,
Harry Clark,
Eddie Clark,
Maggie McDonald,
Minnie Patterson,
Katy Powers,
James McDonald,
Walter Powers,
Frank Quinlin,
James Kelley,
Eddie Kelly,
Rosa Stevens,
Willie H. Foster,
Ernest Hoyt,
Edwin Howard,
Frank Howard,
Lizzie Alexander,
Clifford Moody,
Tommy Mack,
Gracie Spencer,
Flora Brown,
Mary F. Beebe,
Ellen Downing,
Abbie C. Phelps,
Hattie Darrah,
Bessie M. Pease,
Clara Rice,
George Darrah,
Eugene D. Keyes,
Mary Powers,
Nellie Powers,
Edith Corbin,
Mattie Pease,
Fannie French,
Joseph French,
Annie Foskit,
Albert Pease,
Minnie Hoyt,
Fannie Squire,
Fannie Coote,
Annie Bruce,
Lucy Howard,
William Bruce,
Willie Brooks,
Willie Howard,
Charles Bradway,
Frank Bradway,
Louisa Nichols,
Herbert Morgan,
Arvilla Butler,

Nettie Bell,
Lizzie Fenton,
Ella Brooks,
John Ferry,
Albert Blodgett,
Frank Ashley.

NAMES OF SCHOLARS WHO HAVE BEEN NEITHER ABSENT NOR TARDY DURING TWO TERMS.

Bridget Quinlin,
Lilley B. Pease,
Minnie Rice,
Susie Mack,
Mary Howard,
Gracie Houghton,
Frank Tupper,
Homer Tupper,
Mary Hastings,
Katy Beaty,
Henry Blodgett,
Perlin Nichols,
Eugene Hill.

NAMES OF SCHOLARS WHO HAVE BEEN NEITHER ABSENT NOR TARDY DURING

One year, John FitzPatrick.
Three years, Henry Day.
Six years, Luther Bruner.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

No.	NAMES.	Length of Schools in months.			Wages of Teachers per month.			Whole number of Scholars.			Average Attendance of Scholars.			No. of Scholars under five years of age.			No. of Scholars over fifteen years of age.			Total Wages of Teachers.	Incidentals.	Permanent Improvements.	Total of School Money Expended.	NAMES OF TEACHERS.		
		Sum.	Fall.	Win.	Sum.	Fall.	Win.	Sum.	Fall.	Win.	Sum.	Fall.	Win.	Sum.	Fall.	Win.	Sum.	Fall.	Win.							
1	Atchinson,	2 3/4	2 3/4	3	$28 80	$28 80	$30 60	24	26	34	21	23	30	1	1	0	0	1	9	$250 20	$40 65	$58 88	$349 73	M. A. Pease,	M. A. Pease,	J. A. Bosworth.
2	Langdon,	2 3/4	2 3/4	3	27 00	27 00	28 80	27	28	32	22	23	22	1	1	0	0	0	3	234 90	23 49	——	258 39	M. M. Robbins,	M. M. Robbins,	M. L. Foster.
3	Merrick,	2 3/4	2 3/4	3	28 80	28 80	30 60	29	33	21	26	27	18	1	1	0	0	0	1	250 20	19 66	——	269 85	L. A. Albray,	L. A. Albray,	L. A. Albray.
4	Wright,	2 3/4	2 3/4	3	28 80	28 80	30 60	29	30	32	26	27	37	2	2	1	0	0	0	250 20	28 07	51 85	330 12	A. M. Corbin,	A. M. Corbin,	A. M. Corbin.
5	Collins Depot. Advanced,	2 3/4	2 3/4	3	28 80	28 80	30 60	39	57	33	31	46	24	1	0	0	1	2	5	250 20	59 12	——	309 32	H. H. Vining,	H. H. Vining,	Geo. A. Warner.
	Primary,			3			28 80			27			21			0			0	86 40	——	10 00	96 40			Delia Gates.
6	Butler,	2 3/4	2 3/4	3	28 80	28 80	30 60	39	30	32	35	25	26	2	0	0	1	2	1	250 20	35 65	27 51	313 36	A. C. Prindle,	A. C. Prindle,	A. C. Prindle.
7	Glendale,	2 3/4	2 3/4	3	25 20	25 20	27 00	10	11	11	8	9	8	1	1	0	0	0	1	219 60	21 55	34 81	275 96	L. C. Knowlton,	M. L. Foster, T. C. Beebe,	Chas. Brewer,
	Totals,	19 1/4	19 1/4	24	196 20	196 20	237 60	197	215	222	169	180	176	9	6	1	2	5	20	1,791 90	228 19	183 05	2,203 14			

Old bills amounting to $23 00 have also been paid.

REPORT

OF THE

Superintending School Committee

OF WILBRAHAM.

For the Year Ending March, 1861

SPRINGFIELD:
SAMUEL BOWLES & COMPANY, PRINTERS.
1861.

Pencilled notes by A. J. Blanchard
Teacher Dist No 7, Chapin, Glenvale

[illegible] for [illegible] we had kept [illegible] every other [illegible] under the first week. During the last week we have been [illegible] with a visit from Mr. [illegible] the Secretary of [illegible], and our squadron has [illegible] some days longer and also a visit from [illegible] of the larger schools of the Irish school. [illegible] we [illegible] come in to see us? [illegible] to see us. We think that [illegible] of most [illegible] [illegible] they can [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] seem to [illegible] [illegible] English [illegible].

— On [illegible] we [illegible] that we [illegible] some thoughts [illegible] Georgie's signature [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] like the other [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Georgie thought Julia ought to have the [illegible] [illegible] Julia [illegible] by saying that [illegible] [illegible] most appropriate title for [illegible] thought [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

REPORT.

Our system of Common schools proposes to furnish the means of a fair education to every child in the Commonwealth. Its design is, that no youth, male or female, native or foreign born, shall reach maturity without a thorough acquaintance with our text-books of the school-room.

To attain a result so desirable is not beneath the notice of State Legislation, and an annual appropriation of nearly $100,000 ; one half of which goes directly to the district schools; the other half sustains Normal schools, Teachers' Institutes and Associations, and the members of the Board of Education. Still the success of the system in each town will depend upon the town itself. The schools in Wilbraham will be just what Wilbraham chooses to make them.

In this view, it will be the principal object of this our Annual Report, to refer to some of our necessities in order to the more perfect success of our Common Schools. While the Committee believe that our schools, for the past year, have been at least equal to those of previous years, we are painfully sensible of the fact that they have not done for our children all which they are intended, and may be expected to accomplish.

SCHOOL ROOMS.

The first essential to a good school is a comfortable, well-arranged, tasteful, school-room. Some of our school-

rooms are a positive disgrace. They are so uninviting, so inconvenient, so rough, so ragged, so open to frost, that one half the value of the instruction is entirely lost. Take a child from the comforts of the fireside, from his low, easy chair, from a room neatly ceiled, painted, and carpeted, and set him on a narrow strip of board, with an upright back, where his feet must dangle in the air six mortal hours, where he must of necessity either shiver or scorch, where the plastering is broken, and the door pannel kicked through, and the stove funnel tumbling down, where the dirt and jack-knives of four generations have done their worst on ceiling and window, wall and desk, and he feels very much as if you had shut him up in prison. His comfort is not sufficiently consulted, his taste is not pleased, his mind is not satisfied, and in all ordinary cases, he will find his lessons very dry and dull, will come to them as a task, will shirk all he can, and go through the required routine with little interest. The school-room often holds the "balance of power" between love of play, and sense of duty to books—it *may* be *the one thing* which spoils, what would otherwise be, a good school.

SCHOOL APPARATUS.

Our school-rooms need something more in the way of furnishing. At least one whole side of the room (at proper height for all ages), should be filled with black-board. The more it is used, the higher it will be valued. In our Normal Schools scarcely a recitation is conducted without the *indispensable* black-board. Every school room should be furnished also with a set of good Outline Maps. Their success for a part of the year in Districts Nos. 3, 4, and 12, (where they have been placed by private enterprise,) has been *complete*. Geography has been redeemed from its dullness, and taken rank as a pastime; the greatest interest has been awakened; and the knowledge acquired is reliable and permanent.

These two, a large area of blackboard, and Outline Maps the Committee regard as essential, and are unani-

mously of opinion that money should be appropriated from public funds to furnish them for every school. Other apparatus, as spelling and reckoning tables, charts, globes, orreries, geometrical figures, &c., &c., may be added to almost any extent with profit.

QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS.

We need well-qualified teachers, with a few exceptions we may say *better qualified* teachers. We refer to qualifications of various kinds. Obviously there must be a thorough acquaintance with the text books in use. Not the books in use twenty years since, or in another town, but the books used *here* and *now*. Not ability to hear the recitation by comparing the answer given by the pupil, with the answer in the book, or ability to work out a problem by a blind mechanical conformity to a written rule; this is not enough. There should be a thorough mastery of all the books used, at least, and a perfect familiarity with their contents, in order to teach well. A profound acquaintance with any subject is the best preparation for simplifying.

Your committee have been surprised at the very low standard of attainment set before many, who offer themselves as candidates for the important, and responsible position of school teacher.

We cannot refrain from advising any who wish for schools, *to examine themselves* in the various text books to be used, before presenting themselves to the examining committee. We should be unfaithful to our trust, if we should issue certificates to persons whom we find to be grossly ignorant of the principles they are called to teach.

Among the qualifications of a teacher, we assign a high rank to a *special preparation* for the work. To impart instruction well, to train the young mind aright, to give it a symmetrical and healthy development, is a complicated and difficult art. It as truly requires *study* and *skill* as the art of painting. Practically, this is lost sight of. The prevailing idea with some seems to be, that those who can

do nothing else, may apply for schools, and get them if they can, without regard to the question of fitness or unfitness. So far as this idea prevails, especially if it prevail among those who have the management of our schools, the schools will of necessity be poor.

We have great facilities for the training of teachers. Our four Normal Schools, at Salem, Bridgewater, Framingham and Westfield, are supported by the State at an expense of about $15,000 annually. At these schools some five hundred young men and women are studying the art of imparting instruction, with very great success. Deservedly, the graduates of these schools are the most popular teachers. The school at Westfield has been crowded to repletion, and numbers turned away for lack of accommodations, and yet the Principal declares in 1859, "I have not been able, this Fall, to supply one-half the demand." The Report of the Board of Visitors for the same year goes on, "Wherever Normal Teachers have been most employed, the people seem most desirous of securing their services, and from the same places come the largest number of persons to qualify themselves for teaching."

The time is fast coming, nor can it come too soon, when some such course of special preparation will be insisted on as essential to every teacher.

We commend this matter to parents who expect to make teachers of their sons and daughters. We commend it to the sons and daughters themselves, that they may be qualified to take high rank in their chosen profession.

At these schools, text-books are furnished, no tuition is demanded, and to such as need it, pecuniary aid is afforded, by an appropriation from the State, to an amount not exceeding $1.50 per week.

Next in value to Normal Schools are Teacher's Institutes. By all means let the teacher attend upon these as often as practicable.

Another qualification is, a decided *interest in teaching* and *love for children.* A person who loves neither the child

nor the work, who thinks the little ones are always in the way, and were only made to be cuffed and kicked out of it, should never think of teaching. Success in such a case is not reasonably to be expected.

In *other* matters, we all regard *experience* as quite needful to the highest success. Before you contract with a house-carpenter to put up your tenement, you wish to know not only that he owns good tools, and has served a regular apprenticeship, but you inquire here and there of his employers, "Is he skillful? Is he faithful? Has he proved himself master of his trade? Does he put in good timber? Does he make good joints?" It is reasonable not only that our teachers should be required to acquaint themselves with their profession, but it is reasonable that we should prefer to employ those who are not entire strangers in the school-room.

Teachers should be prepared to do something more in the way of introducing *general exercises* to interest the whole school at once, to enliven and refresh the pupils, to break up the monotony of the daily routine. Nothing is better than singing, both for diversion, and good, healthy influence. Where this is impracticable, there are a multitude of other resorts readily suggested to an active mind, or learned, by observation, from other schools.

MONEY.

We need to appropriate more money for the support of our schools.

Last year we raised by tax $1600 only for this purpose ($200 less than in 1859); to this were added from other sources $175 56—making in the aggregate, to sustain thirteen schools, $1,775 56. This gives an average to each of $136 58. Deducting, say $15, for incidental expenses, (see Table) and we have left $121 58 for each school. Allowing twelve weeks for vacations in the year, and forty weeks for school, we shall have an average of $3 03 to pay for the services and the board of the teacher, per week.

The amount is too small! We can not cut the coat out of the cloth! So, to make the best of a bad thing, we must hire a good teacher for a few weeks, and hear the complaint, "our school was too short too amount to anything;" or, in order to make a show of doing something, we must employ the cheapest teacher possible, and be told, "our money has been wasted." Your Committee have found it impossible to procure the best teachers at the lowest wages. If we can be instructed how to get forty weeks of first-rate school out of $121, we are ready to listen; if not, our inevitable conclusion is—more money!

Take another view. The whole amount of taxes assessed in town last year was $5,442 49. For schools, we appropriated $1,600, for ordinary repairs on highways and bridges, $1,000. The Committee respectfully suggest whether a few hundreds might not have been saved from the highways, and turned over to the schools, with advantage. In the late Report of the Selectmen of Ludlow, it appears that more than six times the amount spent on highways was appropriated to schools, (Highways, $155; Schools, $958.)

Again, $1,775 to educate 392 children, gives $4 50 to each pupil under fifteen years. Or, if we add 55 who have attended school over fifteen, (and who, for the most part, are the last to be excluded,) we shall have 447 scholars, and $4 00 to each.

The average to a scholar in Longmeadow (1857–8) was $6 34. Nor is this an unfair comparison. The average throughout the whole State (see Report 23d) in 1858–9, was reported at precisely the same figures, $6 34 to each scholar. To rank with our neighboring town, nay, to come up to the standard of the State as a whole, we should have expended for schools $2,485 28,—an excess over the amount actually expended of $709 72.

Have we not some aspirations to a higher rank than is indicated by these figures?

Once more. The average wages per month paid to male teachers throughout the State, (1858–9) was $48 90,

including the value of board; to female teachers, $19 02, (23d Report). At these rates, our school money would have given us only *eight weeks and four days* of man's school for the whole year, or *twenty and one half weeks* of woman's school! instead of forty weeks, which we desire.

The short schools to which we are limited by the amount of money raised, (if we aim for the best teachers) are not enough for our children. They would hardly be sufficient, if the whole period, from the age of five to fifteen, were spent in school. But when we consider that a large proportion of our boys get only ten or twelve weeks of schooling, instead of forty, and in many cases so broken up, at that, as to lose half its worth, we cannot be surprised that so many find themselves full-grown men in stature, while their necessary education for the most practical purposes has scarcely commenced. Many of them will go through life, dwarfed and crippled—men of vastly less influence and rank than they might have been, but for their scanty privileges.

In behalf of these boys, we ask a more liberal appropriation, that we may give them the best school possible while they do attend.

We believe that on principles of the soundest economy we should raise more money for schools; the investment will purchase a kind of moral insurance against pauperism and crime.

The objection that "thirty years ago we used to have plenty of schooling, with the same, or even a less amount of money" does not meet the case.

Let it be considered, first, that *then* the districts were larger, and the *number* of schools less; it is very plain that if a given amount of money will support twelve schools for five months, it will support six schools ten months. It is a law to which we must submit, as *an inevitable necessity*, that the wages of good teachers have been advancing, and will continue to advance. We are obliged to pay more for hired help, more for board, more for fuel; and we must under the same rule expect to pay

more for the services of school teachers. We can afford to pay more. We have better markets for our produce, and can sell for cash.

Again, more is required of teachers now in the way of preparation. If the teacher must give a year of special study to the work of fitting herself, she has a right to demand, and she ought to receive, better pay. And she will receive it from those who know what is the best thing for common schools. If *we* alone ignore this law of progress, and determine to make no advance upon the old rate of wages, nothing can save our schools from inefficiency and disgrace. Our neighbors will outstrip us in the race, and instead of being the seventeenth in the county of twenty-one towns as reported in 1857–8, we shall soon fall back to the extreme end of the list.

In 1859, our State increased the General School Fund from *one million and a half* to *three million dollars.* The towns raised *fifty thousand dollars more* than in 1858—and shall we stand still—shall we go backwards, while all about us are making advance!

PARENTAL INFLUENCE.

We need a more general and earnest coöperation on the part of parents. Fathers and mothers can injure or elevate the schools exceedingly, and in a great variety of ways. We can only glance at a few.

They will injure the school very much if they allow petty, local divisions, and jealousies, to break up the harmony of the district.

Parents often do much to injure a school by thoughtless fault-finding with the teacher. No judicious parent will gratify this propensity (even if the school is not all it should be,) who has the interests of the school at heart—certainly he will never do so in the presence of his children.

Parents will do much to benefit a school by manifesting an interest *at home*, in the studies of their children. Talk with them about their lessons—inquire at least from week to week what advance they are making—encourage them

to tell you when they have done well in recitations and deportment, and you will soon perceive the quickening influence.

Fathers and mothers should manifest their interest in the school by devoting an occasional half day to visiting the school. This is one of the old stereotyped exhortations we know, but like that against idleness, needs often to be repeated. The schools do suffer from your neglect—they would be greatly improved by this trifling attention—such attention as you never fail to show to those who are performing any kind of manual labor in your employ. Do not let the teacher feel that she is left to do her work alone.

Parents will do well for their school by getting a committee whom they can trust, by whatever name they are called, and then putting the whole thing into their hands, with some expression of confidence in their ability and fidelity. Let them arrange, without interference, as to books, terms, teachers, &c. Reasonable men will always be ready to receive advice, they desire it, but so long as they are *responsible* for the schools, they must be allowed to decide in all doubtful questions.

Parents should be at more pains to secure the uniform and punctual attendance of their children. They should be willing to practice more self-denial, work the harder themselves, or hire more help if their children cannot otherwise be spared to attend school.

They should take especial pains to provide all necessary books, even to spelling, and writing books, *immediately* on the opening of the school,—much valuable time is annually lost from this neglect.

THE DISTRICT SYSTEM.

The Statute provides that a town *may*, at any time, abolish the school districts therein—and further, requires that "every town divided into school districts shall, at the annual meeting in 1863, and every third year thereafter, vote upon the question of abolishing such districts," (see Rev. Statutes, ch. 39, Sec. 4).

In case you should vote for the change, the effect would be, in general, to erase all district lines, and put the whole management of all the schools into the hands of the town at large. Your Committee deem it proper to call your attention briefly to this subject. We wish, at the outset, to bespeak for it an unprejudiced, impartial examination.

Do not be alarmed at the sound of the word abolition, it proposes to abolish nothing without repaying that which shall be of more value.

Do not think your personal interests are to be left uncared for, the object is to guard all those interests with increased vigilance.

Above all, do not allow your honest eyes to be so blinded by unworthy prejudices, but that you can look candidly at both sides. We ask only that you consider as independent men the probable effects of the contemplated change, and are entirely willing to leave the decision with yourselves, we would not, if we could, put the responsibility elsewhere than on the vote of the whole people.

In answer to a possible objection about the transfer of district property to the town,—the Statute provides that not one dollar shall be taken without an equivalent return. All such property in the various districts is to be appraised and paid for out of the Town Treasury. (Rev. Stat. 221).

Another objection has been made, that the new system will give the district no voice in its own concerns, because it does not allow them to vote for a Prudential Committee man. In answer to this let it be remembered, you will all have an equal voice in the election of the Town Committee,—if there should be a member of this Committee in each district, you would without doubt, have his nomination in your hands, if not so many, you would each have your representative in turn in the Board,—and if you are served by the same man under the new system as under the old, what possible difference can it make whether you call him Prudential Committee or Superintending School Committee!

Is it the title which inspires confidence? can no one serve you faithfully and wisely, unless he wears this very excellent prefix *prudential* to his name? the objection amounts to little, if anything, more than this, and cannot we think, have much influence with thoughtful men!

PROBABLE ADVANTAGE OF ABOLISHING DISTRICTS.

1. We should avoid the constant trouble about the legality of the action in school meetings, and indeed about the legal existence of the district itself. Says the Secretary of the Board, "The district itself is a questionable organization, more frequently than otherwise, it has no legal existence; and whenever a vote authorizing the levy of a tax is resisted, the courts usually find it difficult to sustain the proceedings of the district." (Rep. 23: 76 p.)

2. Under the contemplated system we shall probably be better provided with school-rooms. Differences of opinion in a district may now delay erecting, or repairing a school-house, and the quarrel is kept up, till the old house tumbles down. If the whole thing were a part of the regular town business, we should expect to have timely and efficient action.

Again, there are districts in every town, whose pecuniary means are unequal to the erection of a suitable building, without great self-denial. We propose to make common cause with them, and help them to as good a house as their neighbors have. To the Town it is a small matter; to the district it may be a very oppressive burden. The language of Mr. Boutwell is to our purpose: "I appeal to the Towns and ask them to reassume a burden which they ought never to have thrown off."

To illustrate this point of better school-rooms, we refer you to the fine brick buildings recently put up in the outskirts of Springfield, which certainly would not have gone up under the district system. Our friends at Sixteen Acres certainly have reason to rejoice in its abolition.

3. We think that by putting the whole thing into the

hands of a competent Superintending Town Committee, who would, of course, be chosen for a longer period than the Prudential Committee are chosen, we should find a double advantage in the matter of securing teachers. This Committee would have the means of securing *better* teachers, and *more permanent* teachers. *Better* teachers, for their previous experience will have given them a wider acquaintance with teachers, and more skill in making selection. No Committee-man can do so well the first year as the second, nor the second year so well as the third. *Better* teachers, because it will secure more independent action—the full Board will be a check upon each member. All matters of personal favor, cousinships, "axes to grind," which have too often stood in our way, and which always will stand in the way of individual action, however honest the man, will be swept out of sight, in comparison with the vastly higher interests involved—the careful and judicious training of your children. *More permanent* teachers. No school can do very well under a frequent change of teachers. This has been one of our greatest difficulties the past year, yet on our part unavoidable.

Under the old system the teachers were selected by the Prudential Committee-man, chosen in March or April,—during the year he is trying experiments—he may be counted successful, if by the third term he is able to fix upon one who is a good instructor, whom he would like to retain, with whom the whole district are pleased. But just as he is ready to begin to do his work to real advantage, the annual meeting comes round and a *new* Committee-man is elected. *He* has some "very particular friend," or he would like to try in his turn a few experiments with cheaper teachers, and the well tried, the proved, the faithful instructor must give place. Or if he *desires* to employ her it is too late, she is already engaged to teach in a neighboring town before his election.

We do earnestly advise and hope that power may be lodged somewhere, to contract with a good teacher when

First

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embarrass
attorney
surveyor
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finish
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furnish
nourish
ribbon
cherish
punish
persons
merchants
chief
lads +
Errors +

we find one, for a term or two in advance, that the Prudential Committee may not be obliged to say when the year closes, two weeks before school meeting, "we cannot tell whether we shall want you again." We ought not to run the risk of so great loss.

Moreover, if the towns about us have this power of selecting for the year in advance, they will snatch up the best teachers, and we shall be left to do as we can. Certainly we shall be thus robbed, if they pay more liberally.

To secure better teachers, and more permanent teachers, we advocate the existence of *some* body of men who shall have authority to lay hold of tried and experienced teachers, and secure them as a prize for Wilbraham!

4. We advocate the system proposed, because it is so *completely and purely democratic.* It sets no one above another, it gives no one superior advantages over another, it puts all citizens on the most perfect equality possible!

Under its working the children of all the families in town will have equal advantages of school. Now it is not so. Now there may be two men who pay an equal tax, say ten dollars each for schools, of course they should have equal advantages. But one lives in district A, the other in district B. The former can have only five months' schooling, the latter ten months. Is this equality? Suppose there were no districts in town, and the authorities should come and run a line just by the side of your dooryard, and say to you, "Sir, we are endeavoring to increase the benefits of our common schools, we have established a line close by, and have placed you on the north side, and because you are on the north side of that line, for no other possible reason, you can have hereafter only twenty weeks of school. Your nearest neighbor is on the south side of that line, and simply because he is on the south side he shall have forty weeks in the year." How long would you submit to that?

Yet this is just the state of things you are living under with the old district system.

As the tax is levied equally upon all parts of the town,

for the express purpose of educating the whole mass of the people, *without distinction*, there should be equality of privileges. We want all tax-payers, and all poor people, and all communities to have an *equal length of good school*, which would be secured under the new system, but which never can be secured under the present one.

The same is true of other pecuniary burdens, for example, the erection of a school-house.

In District A., a man worth $2000 must pay $50 towards the new building, while in District B., a man of the same means need pay only $10 to secure equally good accommodations. Is this equal justice to all? Why should that arbitrary line make this difference? Why should I be punished for living *here*, and my neighbor rewarded for living *there*? Why should such inducements be presented to build up one section of the town at the expense of another section—to make the rich neighborhood richer, and the poor poorer by change of residence?

We respect, as in duty bound, the rights of all classes of our citizens, and when we propose to abolish the district school system, we propose to abolish the glaring inequalities under which we are now living, but which we may not have thought very definitely about, and substitute in their place, *equal privileges to every neighborhood, equal justice to every individual.*

But after all, no argument can be so convincing as successful trial. You ask has the new system been adopted —does it work well in practice? We are able to answer emphatically. It does work well in practice! The experiment has won many enemies over into friends, and has given well-nigh universal satisfaction.

Says the Secretary of the Board of Education at the close of the year 1859, "I entered upon the duties of the office I now hold with some faith in the district system; my observation and experience have *destroyed that faith entirely.* It is a system admirably calculated to secure poor schools, incompetent teachers, consequent waste of public money, and yet neither committees, nor districts, nor towns be responsible therefor.

It is unquestionably true that the best schools are found where the district system does not exist; and the charge, in a few instances made or suggested, that there has been no improvement in the schools for twenty-five years, is limited in its origin, and in its truthful application to those towns which are divided into districts.

Whenever a town has established the municipal system, and adhered to it for two years, there has never within my knowledge, been a serious effort in favor of the restoration of the district system!

These facts are so encouraging and so conclusive that they ought, without argument, to convince the most sceptical. The great object of the people is the establishment of good schools at the least cost, and they have no interest in the District system when it fails to secure these ends. (Report 23, p. 75.)

But, fellow citizens, the great object sought is *better schools*, however it may be brought about. We care little for methods; we aim at *results*. If we discuss methods, it is only for the sake of results.

Your Committee have endeavored to look faithfully after the best interests of all your schools; they have been conscientious in the discharge of their duties; they have sought, and sought only, the highest good of your children; but we confess we are not satisfied with the result. We see more deficiencies than any of you can tell us; we have found it slow and laborious work to reform abuses and introduce better measures; we have felt especially hindered by what seems to us an entirely unfounded prejudice against our office.

But while our experience has laid open to us the deficiencies of our schools, it has greatly deepened our interest in their complete success.

From whatever point of view, we see the demand for better common schools—for our good name as a town—that we may diminish our taxes for pauperism and crime, that we may call in a class of good, substantial citizens, who always inquire, among the first things, about the

schools in the town to which they contemplate removing—for the healthful, mental, and moral development of our own children. No interest upon which we act as a town is to be compared with this!

It is to be feared that many parents are not more than half awake to the importance of first rate instruction in the early years of life! It is the work of laying foundation. If it be poorly done, no elegance of superstructure can make up the deficiency.

Let us bestir ourselves to think more deeply upon the momentous interests involved, and be willing to make personal sacrifices, that our children may grow up to be highly respectable and influential citizens, an honor to their parents, a blessing to the world.

Fellow citizens, whatever may be your course of action in regard to schools, we urge, as of the first importance, that you will keep this whole matter distinct from the strifes and divisions of party politics. Whatever our differences on other subjects, whatever our political stripes, or religious preferences, let us be a unit here. Whatever we quarrel about, let us quarrel *never* about our common schools!

District No. 1. Miss Bushnell and Miss Whitaker, were both faithful, though with little if any previous experience. With so poor a room, and so few scholars, there was little to awaken their interest, or call forth their energies. The labor was at too great disadvantage to be a fair test of their success.

The winter term, taught by Mr. Bliss, was characterized by good order, and passed off, we believe, to the general satisfaction of the district.

The chattering of teeth in the "back seat," and the scorching of the little ones about the stove, were painful to the spectator, but were endured heroically. The first need of the district is a new school-house.

No. 2. Miss Seaver's pleasant, watchful energy triumphed over many annoyances, and gave a generally fa-

vorable aspect to the school. More of thoroughness in acquisition, and self-reliance in recitation, would have been gratifying to the Committee.

Miss Wright brought to her first term of school a commendable degree of energy and interest. It may be owing to no neglect on her part, that the older boys made so little real advance. The school was lacking in good order, and respectful deportment towards their teacher. They have largely fallen into the very unpromising habit of depending upon the teacher to assist their answers.

No. 3.—This school has been taught the past year with great success by Miss S. W. Merrick. Having been engaged in teaching for several years, she was enabled to bring to the school an experience of much value; a thorough system of teaching, good order, and a respectful and commendable deportment on the part of the pupils, combined to make the school one of much interest.

No. 4.—The primary school in this district has been taught through the year by Miss Maria E. Smith, who has excelled in sustaining a thorough system of instruction, and order, administered in a quiet, efficient manner.

The summer term of the upper school was taught by Miss Sarah E. Cone, who is thoroughly prepared for her work, and with more attention to order cannot fail to be a successful teacher.

The winter school was taught by Mr. George S. Noyes. The obstacles to success in this school were more than ordinary. Notwithstanding the effect of outside influence, he succeeded in sustaining the character of the school, and accomplished as much as could be expected under the circumstances.

No. 5. The summer term was taught by by Miss Martha Curtis, with her usual success.

The winter term of nine weeks was taught by Mrs. L. A. Nichols. Much progress was made considering the shortness of the term.

No. 6. The summer term was taught by Miss Lucia D. Pease. This was her first term. With more experience, she will make a successful teacher.

The winter term, taught by Mr. Perlin S. Butler, was marked by a good degree of thorough instruction and improvement.

No. 7.—The school in this district has been taught the past three summers by Miss Phianda L., and the three winters following, by her brother, Mr. A. J. Blanchard, and has demonstrated most fully to the Committee, and to the parents in the district, the advantage of continuing the same good teachers in the same school.

These teachers have been in the habit of visiting each other's school, noticing improvements, and defects if any, and have thus been the better prepared to enter upon their own duties. The district have contributed to lengthen the school, by boarding the teachers, the sum of seventy-six dollars,—equal to the pay of the teacher for four and a half months in the summer, and two months in the winter.

No. 8.—Miss Jane E. Tupper has taught this school the past three summers, much to the gratification of parents, and the Committee; and is another standing monument to the permanent continuance of good teachers.

Miss Tupper is now in the Normal School, and will doubtless come out thoroughly prepared for the work she so much loves. Owing to the dilapidated condition of the school house, and unorganized condition of the district, your Committee deemed it economy to expend most of the money in summer, making the winter term very short.

No. 9. The qualifications of Miss Kent were better than the average. She was exceedingly hindered in her work by the lamentable irregularity of her pupils.

More attention to some *general exercises*, to break up the monotony of the daily drill, would have increased the interest of the pupils, and made what appeared to be a good school, better.

Mr. Phelps taught in the winter with a high degree of success, considering the multiplied absences from school. Habits of good order and diligent study seemed to be

forming and maturing. The last few weeks were so broken up by measles as to prevent a full closing examination.

We commend to the notice of parents in this district the fact, that your children have lost, by absence, one thousand eight hundred and five days of schooling, which you have paid for in six and one-half months. We hope the district which can boast of the best school-house in town will wipe out their unenviable reputation for irregular attendance.

No. 10.—In this school Miss Burleigh labored with much fortitude, and patience, against (as may be seen by a glance at the table of absences) an obstacle which it seems to your Committee should never exist in any school; whatever of absences are occasioned by sickness are certainly excusable, but are absences from other causes? Making allowance for this obstacle in the way of the teacher, and the school might be pronounced a success.

Miss Cone taught the winter term of this school. She brings to her school a book knowledge thoroughly fitting her for the duties of teacher, and possessing great energy and perseverance, she is remarkably fitted for teaching. Better order, and a more respectful deportment of the pupils would have rendered this school unexceptionable.

No. 11.—The summer and fall terms by Miss Pease. For a teacher so young and inexperienced, the school was remarkably well managed.

The winter school under Mr. Willard has done well. The examinations of advanced classes in Grammar and Intellectual Arithmetic were especially pleasing. The writing books deserve particular commendation.

No. 12.—Miss Whitaker's first experience in teaching gave us a fair school. She secured at once the love of her scholars. If she could have combined with her very desirable gentleness of manner, a little more energy, and perhaps inventive power to interest her pupils outside the daily routine, her school would have been better.

Miss Abbie Merrick taught a good school in the fall.

All were pleased and would gladly have retained her through the year.

Miss Luce, in the winter, taught an admirable school of fifteen weeks. She succeeded in awakening a deep interest in all the studies and classes, which increased to the last day. In recitations, the scholars were self-reliant, prompt, natural. Your Committee wish that larger delegations from other districts could have been present to witness the manifest advantage of our Outline Maps, which we are satisfied no district, certainly no poor district, can afford to be without.

The following Statistical table will, it is believed, explain itself. Nothing more than a careful examination of that table will be needed to convince the most sceptical, that our common schools need much improving. But for fear of being tedious, we should desire to draw out from these statistics some instructive comparisons, e. g. Our average attendance in the summer has been 56+ per cent., 4 per cent. *less than the lowest in Hampden County* in 1859, when it ranged in different towns from sixty to eighty-eight per cent. In the winter we did a trifle better, but even then did not reach the sixty per cent.

Again it will be seen that some districts have enjoyed thirty-five weeks of school in the year, while others have been allowed only twenty-three. This is the *equality* of the district system.

Again in one school of twenty-four scholars, there were four hundred and seventy-eight marks for tardiness in fifteen weeks. In another school of forty-two scholars, one thousand and thirty-four days were lost by absence in sixteen weeks.

But we have no right to ask your indulgence longer, we commend you to the statistics, and your own profitable reflections.

WALTER HITCHCOCK,
H. M. SESSIONS,
J. P. SKEELE, } *Superintending School Committee.*

STATISTICAL TABLE.

No.	DISTRICTS. NAME.	Whole No. Scholars between 5 and 15 yrs.	Whole number attending school between 5 & 15. Sum.	Win.	No. of Scholars over 15. Sum.	Win.	Average Attendance. Sum.	Win.	No. of times Tardy. Sum.	Win.	No. days lost by Absence. Sum.	Win.	Neither Absent nor Tardy. Sum.	Win.	Length of School in months. Sum.	Win.	Amount of School Money.	Cost of Fuel &c., paid from public money.	Wages per month including Board. Summer.	Winter.	NAMES OF TEACHERS. SUMMER.	WINTER.
1	D.L.Atchinson.	20	11	18	0	4	$8\frac{29}{41}$	$14\frac{13}{18}$	87	77	201	115	0	0	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$117 61	$13 65	$15 00	$20 00	1st T. Miss. C. A. Bushnell. 2d " " A. L. Whitaker.	Mr. H. M. Bliss.
2	R. R. Wright.	48	33	24	0	0	$23\frac{1}{2}$	22+	328	478	645	268	5	0	5	$3\frac{3}{4}$	191 62	24 10	20 00	18 00	Miss M. A. Seaver.	Miss L. A. Wright.
3	P. Cross.	22	14	16	2	5	$12\frac{7}{11}$	$19\frac{2}{53}$	23	54	202	62	5	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{3}{4}$	126 82	7 50	14 00	20 00	" S. M. Merriek.	" S. M. Merrick.
4	Upper.		28	41	4	11	23	$27\frac{1}{2}$	39	60	287	431	0	1	$2\frac{1}{2}$	3	284 44	26 44	18 00	30 00	" S. E. Cone.	Mr. Geo. S. Noyes.
4	Centre, So.	74	32	30	0	0	$23\frac{1}{4}$	$23\frac{5}{8}$	78	210	716	292	0	0	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$			16 00	17 00	" M. E. Smith.	Miss M. E. Smith.
4	Lower.																					
5	Scantie.	15	14	10	2	2	12	14	27	10	90	108	0	2	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{4}$	97 64	9 64	18 00	20 00	" M. Curtis.	Mrs. L. H. Nichols.
6	Hendriek.	22	19	23	1	4	20	$22\frac{1}{3}$	111	434	132	129	4	0	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	118 27	6 00	16 00	28 00	" L. D. Pease.	Mr. P. S. Butler.
7	Chapin.	26	22	25	1	5	$16\frac{19}{22}$	$26\frac{3}{26}$	14	00	354	$229\frac{1}{2}$	0	3	$4\frac{1}{2}$	4	126 21	10 28	16 00	30 00	" P. L. Blanehard.	" A. J. Blanehard.
8	John Bliss.	23	14	10	0	3	$13\frac{1}{4}$	$10\frac{39}{34}$	58	136	239	77	3	0	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{3}{4}$	120 74	13 00	14 00	26 00	" J E. Tupper.	" H. Dwight.
9	Potter.	42	36	31	0	7	$20\frac{8}{15}$	$24\frac{1}{6}$	107	176	1034	771	3	0	4	$2\frac{1}{2}$	151 30	16 38	16 50	26 67	" H. E. Kent.	" W. L. Phelps.
10	McCray.	29			0	0	$16\frac{3}{11}$	$22\frac{5}{73}$	25	42	871	114	0	0	$4\frac{1}{2}$	4	158 13		20 00	20 00	" E. C. Burleigh.	Miss S. E. Cone.
11	Langdon.	44	27	27	0	3	$19\frac{1}{2}$	$22\frac{1}{5}$	118	91	867	269	2	1	$4\frac{1}{2}$	3	144 60	12 50	14 40	25 00	" J. E. Pease.	Mr. C. M. Willard.
12	Jas. Merrick.	27	17	19	1	0	$13\frac{11}{56}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$	102	90	398	149	1	1	5	$3\frac{3}{4}$	138 18	21 11	15 00	18 00	1st T. Miss A. L. Whitaker.	Miss L. H. Luec.
		392			11	44	$222\frac{1}{3}$	$265\frac{1}{5}$	1117	1858	6036	3014	23	12	$53\frac{1}{4}$	$38\frac{1}{4}$	$1775 56		$212 90	$298 67	2d " " A. Merriek.	

Lorenzo E. Munsell

REPORTS

OF THE

Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor,

TREASURER,

School Committee,

AND ASSESSORS,

OF THE

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

March 15th, 1878.

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Articles in Town Warrant.

Article 1. To choose a Moderator to preside in said meeting.

Art. 2. To hear the annual reports of the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor, Treasurer, School Committee, and all other Committees whose duty it may be to report to this meeting, and act thereon.

Art. 3. To determine the number of School Committee the town will elect, and the time they shall serve.

Art. 4. To determine the number and manner of electing Collectors of Taxes; also to see if the town will vote to add interest to all taxes unpaid after a certain date.

Art. 5. To determine the manner of repairing the highways and bridges; also to determine the number and manner of electing Highway Surveyors for the ensuing year; also to see if the town will fix the compensation for labor on the highways.

Art. 6. To choose a Town Clerk, Treasurer, three Selectmen, who shall be Overseers of the Poor, three Assessors, and one School Committe for three years; also such others, if any, as the town shall vote to choose, four Constables, four Fence-viewers, all on one ballot; also to choose all other necessary town officers for the ensuing year.

Art. 7. To see if the town will accept of the list of Jurors as revised by the Selectmen.

Art. 8. To see if the town will vote to act in conjunction with the town of Ludlow to raise the bridge at Collins Depot, and put a pier or other support under the same, and appropriate money therefor.

Art. 9. To see if the town will vote to build a School-house in District No. 8, and appropriate money therefor, and choose all necessary Committees to carry the same into effect.

Art. 10. To see if the town will vote to build a road from the West entrance in the new Cemetery in the South Parish, so as to make the lots in said Cemetery more accessible.

Art. 11. To see what disposition the town will make of the Dog Fund now in the hands of the Treasurer.

Art. 12. To see if the town will grant to Reuben H. Chaffee a right of way from the East gate of the new Cemetery in the South Parish to his private burial lot.

Art. 13. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary for the ensuing year, and appropriate the same.

Selectmen's Report.

SCHOOLS.

Appropriation by the Town for Schools,	$3,000 00
Interest on Town Loan,	102 31
Dog fund appropriated for schools,	227 77
State school fund,	246 62
	$3,576 70

The School Committee, alone, being responsible for the expenditure of the money available for support of schools, the Selectmen have given orders for bills approved by them to the amount of $3,312 35

A detailed account of school expenses will be found in the Report of the School Committee.

PAUPERS.

Appropriation by the Town for support of paupers, $2,500 00

Paid for the support of paupers as follows :

For salary of Town Physician,	$50 00
Sally Munsell,	116 20
Caroline Abby,	127 39
Polly Truden,	116 66
Corrydon L. Kibbe,	96 28
Pelatiah Glover,	25 49
Alvin Banister,	129 08
Ruby Giles, including funeral expenses,	114 56
Reuben Caldwell,	118 93
Wm. L. Crocker, including funeral expenses,	116 16
Charles M. Willard,	115·14

For Ebenezer Stacy,		14 45	
Edward W. Colton, at Reform School		42 30	
Daniel A. Warner, at Insane Hospital,		212 10	
Ann M. Clark, at Insane Hospital,		189 00	
Caroline Bliss, at Insane Hospital,		192 42	
Charles A. Hunn, at Insane Hospital,		63 06	
Harriett Goodwill, at Insane Hospital,		44 45	
Sophronia Scripter, at Insane Hospital,		195 00	
Mrs. Nellie Gilligan and five children,		342 71	
Mrs. Nettie Paige and four children,		181 97	
Lorenzo Rood and family,		10 10	
Richard Armstrong, including funeral expenses of wife,		96 55	
Albert Ormsby,		63 25	
Mrs. Martin Andrews and family,		23 69	
Sarah Jackson,		16 14	
Horace Laird, clothing for family,		3 60	
Michael Sweeny,		7 50	
George Truden, clothing,		4 25	
John Connor,		11 85	
James B. Ferris, expense of taking to Northampton twice, and to Tewksbury,		48 00	
Patrick Laddy,		75	
Keeping tramps, R. M. Day,	$5 00		
Keeping tramps, Calvin G. Robbins,	99 88		
Fuel for Tramp house,	19 00		
		$123 88	
Henry Wilson and family,		75 06	
Sarah Patrell,		5 00	
John B. Moulton and family,		49 21	
Mrs. Kate Colgrove and family,		65 51	
Robert Darrah and family,		31 28	
James Champlin and family,		29 28	
Mrs. C. F. Hale and family,		2 65	
Ada Burnett,		10 00	
Total paid for support of Paupers,			$3,280 90

Of the above expenses the following amounts have been refunded:

From State, on account of James B. Ferris,	2 10
State, on account of Robert Darrah,	5 14
City of Boston, on account of Henry Wilson and family,	76 06
City of Springfield, on account of James Champlin,	23 03
Town of Longmeadow, on account of C. F. Hale,	2 65
Town of Brimfield, on account of Mrs. Kate Colgrove,	8 75
Town of Chicopee, on account of Sarah Patrell,	5 00
Town of Chicopee, on account of Ada Burnett,	10 00
Total amount refunded,	132 73

There is also due from cities and towns, on above accounts, as follows:

From City of Boston, on account of Henry Wilson,	3 75		
City of Springfield, on account of John B. Moulton,	49 21		
Town of Brimfield, on account of Kate Colgrove,	56 76		
		109 72	
Amount to be deducted,			$242 45
Net cost of Paupers for the past year,			$3,038 45

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Appropriation by the Town,		$2,000 00
Orders given as follows:		
To Henry Clark, surveyor, and others, District No. 1,	$114 81	

Luther Markham, surveyor, and others, District No. 2,		102 35	
A. A. Phelps, surveyor, and others, District No. 3,		131 70	
M. H. Warren, surveyor, and others, District No. 4,		278 53	
A. O. Thresher, surveyor, and others, District No. 5,		201 25	
Andrew Beebe, surveyor, and others, District No. 6,		117 87	
A. D. Seaver, surveyor, and others, District No. 7,		121 74	
G. W. Tupper, surveyor, and others, District No. 8,		269 11	
Alvin Chilson, surveyor, and others, District No. 9,		152 00	
Mathias Casey, surveyor, and others, District No. 10,		176 87	
Munroe Pease, surveyor, and others, District No. 11,		100 28	
Henry Dewey, surveyor, and others, District No. 12,		89 14	
For new plank, for Collins bridge,	$109 80		
Repairs, Collins bridge,	5 25		
One-half expense lighting Collins bridge,	18 24		
		133 29	
Total expenditure for Highways,			$1,988 94

CONTINGENT ACCOUNT AND TOWN OFFICERS.

Appropriation by the town,			$1,200 00
Orders given as follows :			
To Alvin Chilson, collecting taxes 1875,		$100 00	
Henry Clark, posting warrants and notifying town officers,		33 20	
M. H. Warren, posting warrants,		4 50	
F. W. Dickinson, notices for Scantic bridge,		75	

W. M. Green, error in discount on taxes, '72,	1 54
B. & A. R. R. train to bring engine to fire June 24,	25 00
F. E. Clark, register of voters,	1 70
H. H. Burbank, balance for collecting taxes for 1876,	40 00
M. H. Warren, collecting taxes for 1876,	75 00
J. S. Albray, mowing Cemetery near Dea. Adams',	4 50
W. L. Collins, services as undertaker,	108 75
Clark Goodwill, services as undertaker,	75 25
C. W. Bryan & Co., for printing Reports, etc.,	82 42
Samuel Bowles, advertising,	11 10
Marcus Daniels, damage to wife by defect in highway,	150 00
R. Armstrong, mowing Cemetery, South Parish,	8 00
Franklin Butler, mowing Cemetery, Butlerville,	5 00
Clark Goodwill, services under dog law,	5 00
E. Howlet, repair of Cemetery fence,	75
M. E. Society, for use of vestry for town meeting,	50 00
S. C. Spellman, services as Moderator, 1877,	5 00
G. W. Ely, for rent of shelter for fire apparatus,	5 00
Albert Bedurtha, setting posts at Cemetery,	1 50
C. A. Corbin, repair of town pound,	50
A. J. Blanchard, stationery and postage for Assessors,	3 25
A. O. Thresher, collecting taxes for 1877,	49 00
E. B. Gates, expenses to Boston on recount of votes,	10 00
E. B. Gates, recording births, marriages and deaths,	33 30
E. B. Gates, express, storage, stationery and postage,	34 50
W. L. Collins, expenses in small pox case, 1877,	2 75

Wm. R. Sessions, stationery and postage,	5 00
F. E. Clark, stationery and postage,	6 00
Stockwell Bettes, surveying and map of the town,	59 50
F. E. Clark, time and expenses as Committee on division of town,	41 75
Wm. R. Sessions, time and expenses as Committee on division of town,	25 75
Ira G. Potter, time and expenses as Committee on division of town,	27 00
Frank Hollister, time and expenses as Committee on division of town,	16 00
Total amount of contingent expenses,	$1,108 26

TOWN OFFICERS.

SELECTMEN.

Wm. R. Sessions,	$84 80	
F. E. Clark,	81 00	
F. W. Dickinson,	58 00	
		223 80

ASSESSORS.

A. J. Blanchard,	$74 00	
S. U. Stanton,	40 00	
H. H. Burbank,	28 75	
		142 75

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

George T. Ballard,	$75 00	
James M. Foster,	58 75	
Jason Butler,	55 00	
		188 75

Total of contingencies and town officers, $1,663 56

NEW SCHOOL HOUSE DISTRICT NO. 11.

Appropriation by the town,	$600 00	
Received for old school-house,	53 00—	$653 00

Orders given as follows:

To J. P. Streeter for site and grading the same,	60 75	
Thomas J. Mills, building school-house, contract price,	580 00	
Thomas J. Mills for extras on school-house,	3 75	
Sherwood Furniture Co., desks, etc.,	60 00	
Sundry persons for materials and labor in furnishing house,	18 34—	722 84

STOCKING NINE-MILE POND.

Appropriation by the town,		$150 00

Orders given as follows:

To C. E. Peck, expenses for 6,000 land-locked salmon,	$25 95	
C. E. Peck, expenses for 27 black bass,	74 95	
C. E. Peck for screen for outlet and warning-boards,	15 50	
John Baldwin, damage by stoppage of water by fish-screen,	2 00—	118 40

INTEREST.

Appropriation by the town,		$300 00
Paid interest on town loan,	$102 31	
Interest on temporary loans,	194 96	
Interest on M. Walker note,	21 00	
Interest on L. Howlett's note,	13 13—	331 40

STATE AID ACCOUNT.

(No appropriation by the town.)

Orders given on the Treasurer as follows:

To Mrs. Rowena C. Bliss, paid to March 1, 1878,	$48 00	
Mrs. Mary Rice, paid to March 1, 1878,	48 00	
Mrs. Angenette D. Coash, paid to March 1, 1878,	46 00	
Mrs. Isabella G. Daniels, paid to March 1, 1878,	48 00	
Mrs. Harriett Fuller, paid to March 1, 1878,	48 00—	238 00

SUMMARY.

	APPROPRIATIONS AND AVAILABLE FUNDS.	EXPENDED.
Schools,	$3,576 70	$3,312 35
Paupers,	2,500 00	3,038 45
Highways and bridges,	2,000 00	1,988 94
Contingencies and town officers,	1,200 00	1,663 56
New school-house,	653 00	722 84
Stocking Nine-Mile Pond,	150 00	118 40
Interest,	300 00	331 40
Paying debt of town,	1,000 00	
State aid,		238 00
	$11,379 70	$11,413 94

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

Outstanding orders,	$904 25	
One note to Warren Collins,	400 00	
One note to M. Walker,	150 00	
One note to Lucetta Howlett,	125 00	
One note to A. O. Thresher,	150 00	
One note to Horace Clark,	600 00	
One note to First National Bank, Springfield,	800 00	
Pauper and other bills which will be due April 1, estimated amount,	400 00	
Interest on above notes,	75 00—	3,604 25

RESOURCES OF THE TOWN.

Dog fund due from County Treasurer,	$192 48
Due from State Treasurer for State aid,	280 00
Due from Alvin Chilson, Collector for 1875,	57 52
Due from S. C. Spellman, Collector for 1876,	189 54
Due from D. A. Atchinson, Collector for 1877,	2,050 29
Due from town of Palmer for paupers,	15 00
Due from city of Boston for paupers,	3 75
Due from city of Springfield for paupers,	49 21

Due from town of Brimfield for paupers,	56 76	
Cash in treasury, March 15, 1878,	54 61	
		$2,949 16
Balance against the town, net debt,		$655 09

The Selectmen recommend the following appropriations for the ensuing year:

For schools,	$3,000 00
Paupers,	3,000 00
Highways and bridges,	2,000 00
Contingencies and town officers,	1,500 00
County Commissioners' road and land damages,	1,200 00
School-house, district No. 8,	2,000 00
Collins bridge (raising and pier),	500 00
Paying the debt of the town,	650 00
Fencing school-house lot, district No. 11,	60 00

Respectfully submitted,

WM. R. SESSIONS,
F. E. CLARK,
F. W. DICKINSON,
Selectmen of Wilbraham.

Town Valuation, Etc.

Valuation of North Parish, real,		$467,380 00
Valuation of North Parish, personal,		120,844 00
Valuation of South Parish, real,		299,630 00
Valuation of South Parish, personal,		62,795 00
Total,		$950,649 00
Number of polls in North Parish,	361	
Number of polls in South Parish,	232	
Total,	593	
Number of dwelling-houses in North Parish,	263	
Number of dwelling-houses in South Parish,	192	
Total,	455	
Number of horses in North Parish,	233	
Number of horses in South Parish,	168	
Total,	401	
Number of cows in North Parish,	469	
Number of cows in South Parish,	285	
Total,	754	
Number of sheep in North Parish,	104	
Number of sheep in South Parish,	52	
Total,	156	
Number of acres of land taxed, North Parish,	12,570	
Number of acres of land taxed, South Parish,	11,281	
Total,	23,851	

Poll tax,	$2 00	
Rate per cent.,	1 25	

TOWN APPROPRIATIONS.

For schools,	$3,000 00	
Paupers,	2,500 00	
Highways and bridges,	2,000 00	
Town officers and contingencies,	1,200 00	
Payment of debt,	1,000 00	
Payment of interest,	300 00	
Building school-house, District No. 11,	600 00	
Stocking Nine-Mile Pond,	150 00	
		$10,750 00
State tax,		825 00
County tax,		1,022 06
Overlayings,		472 61
Total committed to collectors,		$13,069 67

A. JACKSON BLANCHARD,
SULLIVAN U. STANTON,
H. HERBERT BURBANK,
Assessors of Wilbraham.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Town of Wilbraham in account with E. B. Gates, Treasurer of the Town of Wilbraham, for the year ending March 15, 1878.

Cr.

By Cash in Treasury, March 15, 1877,	$377 51
Cash from County Treasurer, dog fund,	227 77
Cash from Joseph Baldwin, temporary loans,	6,800 00
Cash from First National Bank, temporary loans,	1,900 00
Cash from Warren Collins, temporary loan,	400 00
Cash from State Treasurer, Corporation tax,	57 72
Cash from State Treasurer, National Bank tax,	277 08
Cash from State Treasurer, State aid refunded,	256 00
Cash from State Treasurer, school fund,	246 62
Cash from State Treasurer, aid to State paupers,	5 14
Cash from State Treasurer, transportation of State paupers,	2 10
Cash from City of Boston, for Wilson family,	76 06
Cash from City of Springfield, aid to paupers refunded,	23 03
Cash from Town of Chicopee, aid to paupers refunded,	36 72
Cash from Town of Brimfield, for Mrs. Colgrove,	8 75
Cash from Town of Longmeadow, for C. F. Hale,	2 65
Cash from Henry Glover, for support of P. Glover,	50 00
Cash from Lacousic Woolen Company for wood from cemetery lot,	220 80
Cash from Wm. P. Chaffee, for lumber from cemetery lot,	19 00
Cash from S. D. Cooley, for old school-house, District No. 11,	53 00
Cash from Geo. T. Ballard, dividend on insurance on school-house, District No. 10,	18 00

Cash from Michael Sullivan, return of aid in small-pox case, 1877,	6 00
Cash from M. A. Bliss, interest collected, 1874,	75 70
Cash from Geo. T. Ballard, interest collected, 1874,	36 57
Cash from Town Loan Committee, interest on Town loan,	102 31
Cash from Walter M. Green, collector for 1872,	10 05
Cash from M. H. Warren, collector for 1875,	146 73
Cash from H. H. Burbank, collector for 1876,	719 70
Cash from S. C. Spellman, collector for 1876,	358 19
Cash from D. A. Atchinson, collector for 1877,	5,403 00
Cash from A. O. Thresher, collector for 1877, in full,	5,594 32
	$22,510 52

Dr.

To Cash paid Clark W. Bryan & Co., for Treasurer's book,	$2 25
Cash paid notes to Joseph Baldwin, temporary loans,	8,500 00
Cash paid First National Bank, temporary loans,	1,100 00
Cash paid interest on temporary loans,	194 96
Cash paid interest on M. Walker's note,	21 00
Cash paid interest on L. Howlett's note,	13 13
Cash paid for blank certificates for dog licenses,	1 00
Cash paid State Treasurer, State tax,	825 00
Cash paid State aid,	238 00
Cash paid Assessors' abatement, 1873–4,	23 00
Cash paid Assessors' abatement, 1875,	11 65
Cash paid Assessors' abatement, 1876,	53 44
Cash paid Assessors' abatement, 1877,	67 38
Cash paid old orders outstanding, March 15, 1877,	1,120 05
Cash paid Selectmen's orders,	10,285 05
Cash in Treasury,	54 61
	$22,510 52

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Of the Town of Wilbraham, for 1877–8.

CITIZENS OF WILBRAHAM:—The school year just closed has been a prosperous one. The mild weather of Winter, and a freedom from epidemics, has contributed not a little to the success attending it. Our schools, however, are not faultless, and while we take pleasure in their general progress, we may well consider their wants and imperfections, and lend our aid as parents and citizens in making them effective and useful to the limit of their capability. We first invite your attention to the topic of attendance. Scholars are frequently detained from school, to assist at home or on the farm, and on returning they find their classes have gone right on, and double work must be the consequence. This the scholar cannot do and do well, and his poor recitations have a demoralizing effect on himself and on the school. That this is a serious evil, no one can deny, and that the remedy is easy is equally evident. You hold it and can apply it. Parents esteem it a light thing to burden their children with numberless duties, and then, with glaring inconsistency, complain that they do not make more rapid progress. It devolves on you to inspire your children with an ambition to achieve some definite object in life; it devolves on you to assist them in forming habits of study and application, and to avoid so dis-

tracting the mind that such habits shall be impossible. You should hold his school days sacred to study; they will end soon enough at best, and the duties of home, however imperative, will prove poor substitutes for the unlearned lessons which they replace.

READING.

Reading has received more than the usual attention, and we are happy to say, that a large proportion of the pupils under ten years of age read with a surprising fluency and correctness. No longer we hear that monotone so common a few years since, but an accent, emphasis and enunciation which is not excelled by those whose study has advanced them to the most difficult reading. The higher classes show a corresponding improvement. This is encouraging, if the study and training one receives in the common schools, commencing with his first induction, determines his proficiency as a reader, for, however successful one may be in mastering the higher branches taught, if faulty in this, a cloud hovers over his achievements and forever darkens the brilliancy of his other perhaps masterly acquirements.

SPELLING.

Good spelling is of no small importance to a pupil. To base an education on poor reading and spelling is like building an architectural structure on a weak and imperfect foundation. However symmetrical the proportions and grand the conception and construction, it only adds prominence to its underlying weakness; so with education, with these elements wanting, embellishments serve only to make strikingly apparent the imperfections. Scholars should have such a facility in spelling as to be not only able to spell such words as are found in the ordinary spelling book, but all words common in published works. This can only be acquired by the practice of spelling after each exercise in reading.

SUCCESSFUL TEACHING.

This can only be accomplished by one reared in refinement, educated to a thorough knowledge of all the branches common to our schools, not liable to mistakes in pronunciation or grammatical errors in the construction of sentences, possessing in the largest sense dignity of character; not ungainly in attitude, uncouth in manners, or rough in tones of voice; possessing genuine politeness, a model of good breeding. Such are the qualifications sought in a teacher, and essential to warrant success. Plutarch says on the training of children: "Childhood is a tender thing and easily wrought into any shape. Yea, and the very souls of children readily receive the impressions of those things that are dropped into them while they are yet soft; but when they grow older they will, as all hard things are, be more difficult to be wrought upon, and as soft wax is apt to take the stamp of the seal, so are the minds of children to receive the instruction impressed on them at that age. Nor are we to omit taking due care, in the first place, that those children who are appointed to attend upon such nurslings, and to be bred with them for playfellows, be well mannered; and next, that they speak plain, natural Greek, lest, being constantly used to converse with persons of a barbarous language and evil manners, they receive corrupt tinctures from them. For it is a true proverb that if you live with a lame man you learn to halt." The wisdom and truth of these sayings are pertinent.

DEATH IN THE SCHOOLS.

One of the sad events of the year, is in the death of one of our corps of teachers, Miss Hattie J. Coash, a young lady of promise, with more than an average of those rare qualities which adorn the life and character of all true women of American birth and culture. She entered the school service with the year, and in a single term gained the esteem and love of her pupils and their parents, as well as the confidence

of the committee. Hardly had she entered on the duty of the second term, when she was prostrated with sickness, and after a long and painful struggle she yielded to its power.

Another sad event was in the death of one of the pupils, Carrie Wilson, aged 12 years.

SCHOOL NO. 10

Has been the unfortunate school of the year. Such was the number in attendance that your Committee after the first week of the Winter term established a Primary School, that all might be accommodated and properly instructed; but after about six weeks, measles came into the school, and so reduced the attendance that it was expedient to close the Primary Department and merge both in one; this produced confusion, and altogether the success of this school was very much impaired. The teachers were faithful and efficient, and are not compromised by the result.

SCHOOL-HOUSE NO. 11.

During the year, a new and convenient school building has been constructed in school section No. 11. This supplies a want and necessity long existing; and while that vicinity rejoices in this expenditure for their accommodation, we can congratulate ourselves and them, that the last of those very ancient school-houses, unsuitable to the purpose for which they were intended, and unbecoming our day, has passed away, and we can point with just pride to our school buildings, which will compare favorably with those of other towns of our magnitude and financial ability. The expenditures for this building will be found in the Selectmen's Report.

EXPENDITURES.

There are certain expenditures necessary to be made each year on the school property of the town, which do not appear to the Committee until some event reveals the neces-

sity. We therefore recommend a small appropriation for permanent improvements and repairs.

The reduction of the appropriations for the support of the schools made at the last annual meeting, led the Committeee to fear that they would not be able to carry them through the year without cutting down the salaries to an extent that might be of serious detriment to the schools, or be forced to shorten the length of the schools against their judgment of a wise policy. They were, however, agreeably disappointed; owing to the depression in business, we effected a reduction of ten per cent. on the wages of the teachers; thus we were enabled to continue the schools the usual number of weeks. There was also a large falling off in incidental expenses this year, owing partly to the mildness of the weather, and in a few instances purchases made last year. The incidentals are reduced 31 per cent. from last year. This enables us to make an exhibit of $264.35 of unexpended school funds.

We recommend for the support of schools the coming year the following sum:

For regular expenses, - - -	$2,700 00 and dog fund.
Incidentals, - - - -	300 00
Permanent repairs, - - -	100 00
Total,	$3,100 00 and dog fund.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. T. BALLARD,
J. M. FOSTER,
JASON BUTLER,
School Committee of Wilbraham.

ROLL OF HONOR,

NAMES OF SCHOLARS WHO HAVE BEEN NEITHER ABSENT NOR TARDY DURING THE YEAR.

Luther Brewer,
John Casey,
Henry Day,
Cora P. Newell,
Eva C. Lamson,
Mary J. Mulrooney,
George Lyman,
Willie McGuire.

NAMES OF SCHOLARS WHO HAVE BEEN NEITHER TARDY NOR ABSENT DUR- TWO TERMS.

Lillie B. Pease,
Mattie M. Pease,
Louisa Kinworthy,
Addie S. Beebe,
Nellie Atchinson,
Lizzie Alexander,
Tommie Mack,
Frank Jones,
Minnie E. Hunt,
Julia Green,
Willie A. Phelps,
Henry Chapin,
Lottie M. Edson,
Louisa Richards,
Louis Richards,
Fannie Squier,
Susie Mack,
Susie Hunn,
Homer Tupper,
Susie Chapin,
Bertha Bronson,
Nellie Casey,
Jennie A. Beebe,
Frank Lyman,
Clifford Moody,
Willie Foster,
Rachel Coote,
James Mulrooney,
Frank Tupper,
Annie Chapin,

NAMES OF SCHOLARS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ABSENT NOR TARDY DURING ONE TERM.

Florence Clark,
Oscar Brewer,
Willie Day,
John Barker,
Maud Davis,
King Moore,
Lettie Sessions,
Willie S. Smith,

Louis Barker,
Edwin Howard,
Freddie Robbins,
Chas. Moody,
Linnie McCray,
Clarence Curtis,
Mary Powers,
Leroy Noble,
Lizzie Carney,
Chas. Rood,
Lizzie Thompson,
Jennie Day,
Russel Day,
Henry Thresher,
Hattie Lamson,
Eddie Newcomb,
John Whalen,
Henry C. Amidon,
Eddie F. Amidon,
Grace Spencer,
Edward S. Hitchcock,
Bertie Nichols,
John Fitzpatrick,
Edith Corbin.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

No.	NAMES.		Length of Schools in months.			Wages of Teachers per month.			Whole number of Scholars.			Average attendance of Scholars.			No. of Scholars under five years of age.			No. of Scholars over fifteen years of age.			Total wages of Teachers.	Incidentals.	Permanent Improvements.	Total of School Money expended.	NAMES OF TEACHERS.		
			Sum.	Fall.	Win.	Sum.	Fall.	Win.	Sum.	Fall.	Win.	Sum.	Fall.	Win.	Sum.	Fall.	Win.	Sum.	Fall.	Win.					Summer Term.	Fall Term.	Winter Term.
1	Atchinson,	South Center.	2½	2½	3	$27 00	$27 00	$28 80	26	27	33	24	25	31	0	0	0	0	3	7	$221 40	$19 65	———	$241 05	M. Adelle Pease,	M. Adelle Pease,	M. Adelle Pease.
2	Wright,		2½	2½	3	28 80	28 80	30 60	34	26	36	31	25	30	0	0	0	1	0	1	235 80	23 05	———	258 85	Alice Corbin,	Alice Corbin,	Alice Corbin.
3	Cross,		2½	2½	3	25 20	25 20	27 00	12	14	15	9	12	12	0	1	1	0	0	2	207 00	5 65	———	212 65	Hattie J. Coash,	Hattie J. Coash, Stella M. Day,	Elsie M. Sessions.
4	Advanced,		2½	2½	3	28 80	28 80	30 60	25	24	18	21	21	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	235 80	74 00	$40 75	586 35	Susie S. Beebe,	Susie S. Beebe,	Susie S. Beebe.
	Primary,		2½	2½	3	28 80	28 80	30 60	40	33	31	33	27	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	235 80	———	———	———	Maria A. Firmin,	Maria A. Firmin,	Maria A. Firmin.
5	Scantic,		2½	2½	3	25 20	25 20	27 00	16	14	16	13	12	13	3	2	0	0	0	0	207 00	19 93	———	226 93	Emma A. Lee,	Elsie M. Sessions,	Stella M. Day.
6	Hendrick,		2½	2½	3	27 00	27 00	28 80	19	21	17	16	17	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	221 40	14 78	———	236 18	Jennie S. Himes,	Jennie S. Himes,	M. Dewitt Warren.
7	Chapin,		2½	2½	3	25 20	25 20	27 00	9	9	11	8	7	11	0	0	0	0	0	4	207 00	22 65	———	229 65	Mary E. Chester,	Mary E. Chester,	A. J. Blanchard.
8	Collins Depot,		2½	2½	3	28 80	28 80	30 60	30	36	38	26	33	31	0	0	0	0	3	9	235 80	5 88	———	241 68	Carrie P. Sanderson	Carrie P. Sanderson	Jason Butler.
9	Butler,		2½	2½	3	27 00	27 00	28 80	27	35	39	22	27	35	0	0	0	0	1	2	221 40	29 47	———	250 87	Julia M. Patton,	Sadie M. Child,	Augusta C. Prindle.
10	Advanced,	McGray.	2½	2½	3	28 80	28 80	30 60	46	45	56	37	39	36	6	2	2	1	0	3	235 80	65 55	———	351 84	Amelia T. Lyon,	Ellen A. Chapin,	Wm. J. Sessions.
	Primary,				1½			30 60													50 49						Ellen A. Chapin.
11	Langdon,		2½	2½	3	27 00	27 00	28 80	20	22	33	15	18	23	1	2	0		0	5	221 40	20 00	———	241 40	Emma D. Mills,	Mary M. Robbins,	Jennie R. Walker.
12	Merrick,		2½	2½	3	27 00	27 00	28 80	21	25	26	18	22	19	0	0	0	0	0	2	221 40	13 50	———	234 90	Laura A. Albray,	Laura A. Albray,	Laura A. Albray.
	Totals,		32½	32½	40½	354 60	354 60	408 60	325	334	369	273	285	285	11	7	3	2	7	35	2957 49	314 11	40 75	3,312 25			